Monday December 9 1996

The return of The Girlie Show

Embracing democracy

Spin doctors

o'clock shadow

cabinet member

tackle five

Reven MacAskill



IN ... Frank Dobson written off for beauty

untrustworthy.

Mr Darling, at home in Stockbridge, Edinburgh, acknowledged yesterday that he had come under pressure from the party to shave off his

beard.

Asked for a comment, he called out to his wife, Maggie, who laughed aloud. "I will



Two students find time for romance during another protest march by tens of thousands against the regime of President Slobodan Milosevic in the Serbian capital Belgrade Full report, page 2 PHOTOGRAPH: MAKEN ANTONOV

OUT ... Alistair Darling

Labour spin doctors think said, playing for time. The makes him look untidy and shadow chancellor, Gordon said, playing for time. The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, has been blamed for putting Mr Darling under pressure, but how his colleagues look and dress is not something that normally excites Mr Brown. Suspicion has fallen instead on the party's spin doctors, mainly Mr Brown's press officer, Charlie Whelan, who has himself had to make sacrifices for the to make sacrifices for the

party, removing an earring from his left lobe on joining Mr Brown's office. A Labour source denied the party was anti-beard, which will be a relief to shadow cabi-net members such as Robin Cook, Frank Dobson and David Blunkett.

The problem with Mr Dar-ling, the source said, was not that he had a beard but that it was such a carefully trimmed beard you could not be sure he had one.
"It looks like stubble or that

he hadn't bothered shaving." Mr Dobeon, who has a bushy beard, said no pressure had been applied to him to be-come clean-shaven. "If it was good enough for Abe Lincoln, it is good enough for anyone." He added that as far as the party's spin doctors were concerned, he had been "written

off for beauty purposes".

No pressure has been applied from the leader's office.

Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press officer, is thought to be relaxed about Mr Darling's beard: it looks distinguished, a source close to Mr Blair said.

Finance

Tory civil war: Euro-sceptics plot revenge

Major fails to quell "If they don't support us, 'maverick' MPs

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NRAGED Tory Euro-sceptics threatened night after he uncompromisingly warned them their "savage" civil war risked forcing an early gen-

Mr Major, in his most confident display for months, dis-

daid: "If they don't support us, then we may have a gen-

At the end of one of his worst weeks in office, that saw a Tory backbencher Sir John Gorst withdraw co-oper-John Gorst withdraw co-oper-ation, and the start of one that 'could be equally as had, he rejected calls to sack the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, or to drop the Government's wait-and-see policy on a single currency.

A Central Office source said later that about 99 per cent of Tories would be in agreement with Mr Major. But that looked over-optimistic last

The most extreme Tory Euro-sceptics could not con-tain their rage. Sir George Gardiner, who will defy the party whip on Europe from manifestos never to vote for a

now on, summed it up by saying: "The strife goes on."
Terry Dicks, another rebel,
was livid about what he described as Mr Major's snide
remarks about him and other
Euro-sceptics: "I am
spething."

Guardia.

SportExtra

seething."
Threatening to leave the party as well as to resign the whip, he said: "Right now, I am in two minds whether to tell him to stuff his govern-ment and his party. That is my immediate reaction, but it is not a wise one."

He said there were no seri-ous Commons votes until ous Commons votes until mid-January and therefore there might not be much point in making a gesture by resigning the whip now.

More worrying for Mr Major is that senior Conservative backbenchers, who in public sounded moderate.

scathing.
"He has just declared war on the Tory Party," a former cabinet minister said. "He has shown himself to be at odds with the party in the

John Redwood, around whose banner the Euro-sceptics are uniting, was dismis-sive of the Prime Minister for failing to criticise other European countries over their apparent attempts to flidge on the criteria for joining a

single currency.

The Euro-sceptics appear to be plotting a show of strength this week, either by exploiting a two-day Commons de-bate on Europe or some extra-

then we may have a general election but that is in the nature of politics. But I'm not going to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on any issue." John Major, speaking to the BBC yesterday

nature of politics. But I am public sounded moderate, were in private equally the following to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on the Thry Back and leading sceptic, estimated yesterday that the contract on the Thry Back and leading sceptic, estimated that the contract on the Thry Back and leading sceptic, estimated that the contract of The shadow chancellor,

Gordon Brown, said Eurosceptic reaction showed Mr Major to be "more exposed and beleaguered" than he had been even on the previous

In spite of Mr Major's tough language, a compromise is being prepared behind the scenes. Mr Major gave no significant ground to the scap-tics during an interview with BBC's On The Record, but

To our readers,

the world.

possible.

party strategists were brief-ing afterwards that the Prime Minister will become increasingly strident about the chances of other European countries meeting the necessary criteria for joining a single currency. This would allow him to say that joining a single currency is not a real-istic option for years to come. The strategists said he

INTERNATIONAL

could not say this yesterday because it would unnecessarily have annoyed Britain's European partners in the run-up to the two-day European Union summit in Dublin, beginning on Friday. But the line would be heard more often and loudly in the

agreed with Mr Clarke. In the interview, Mr Major called on his colleagues to called on his contagues to trust him: He had set out the Government's policy on Europe many times: Britain will not rule out joining a single currency this side of a general election because it vanted to remain part of the

negotiations.
Looking strained at the be ginning of the interview, he became increasingly relaxed not been boxed in by the two leading pro-Europeans in the Cabinet, Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine

The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and his French counterpart, Jacques Chirac, are scheduled to meet today for discussions about tactics for the Dublin summit, with speculation that they might try to ambush Mr Major.

Ros Coward,

Good nude for winner

of postcard competition

Dan Glaister Arts Correspon

WELL, it wasn't by David Bowie, Frank Auerbach, or RB Kitaj. But the emsigned postcard bought by the Guardian at a Royal College of Art exhibition and featured in Thursday's paper (right) is almost certainly worth more than the tainly worth more than the

£30 paid for it. The watercolour is by Stan Smith, a respected British artist based in London, and a former teacher at the RCA. The Guardian bought three other post-cards — a landscape by Penny Rogers, a line drawing by David Shovel, and David Bowle's homage to Damlen Hirst, featuring a print of a sheep in a tank.

Readers were invited to suggest a title for the water-colour — many thanks to the 850 who replied Several titles featured "glove", such as "Glove's Labours Lost"



and "Gloves off". Marigold rubber gloves featured heavily, with some opting for "Preparing To Do The Washing Up". Other favourite themes

were green, with "Green-sleeves" and "Greenfingers" appearing regu-larly, and nursing, with many unprintable entries of the "Preparations for an Examination" variety.

Following lengthy consideration, Michael James, from Leeds, won for "Today's Nude in Brief". Congratulations, the postcard's in the post.



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The slow and not quite sober road home

On a cold, dark night on Tyneside, the highway patrol is out and about, recalling drivers like the one who fell out of his car leaving two empty vodka bottles behind

Monday sketch

Peter Hetherington

LOSING time on and Tango Delta Victor is sweeping through pub and club land. Along the prom at Tynemouth, small processions of revellers are shuffling, swaying and singing their way home, occasionally lurching from pavement to road and dodging traffic with a death-defying drunken

Many other roads, for once, are fairly quiet, which makes life a little easier for patrol-men Mick Whittam and Ken Ackinclose in their highpowered Mondeo. They can quickly spot a suspect vehicle, or driver—a faulty headlamp here, a dodgy brake light there, and the tell-tale signs of a car crawling home suspi-

ciously slowly. And then, suddenly, it ap-

pears, the very stereotype windows steamed-up, indica-tors idle, and worse still, a snail-like speed that prompts the PCs to switch on the blue lights and sound the siren. PC Ackinclose, 14 years a highway patrolman, approaches the car and starts to

question the driver.
"I'm just wondering— how many pints are you allowed these days?" the latter asks with a hint of injured

PC: "Basically you're not

Driver: "Oh, I'm in trouble then 'cos I've had two pints?"
PC: "It depends on what you've had to eat, whether you're used to drinking a cou-ple of pints, but the safest way is to have nothing." Driver: "Well, that's it. I've had it. I've been driving very carefully."
PC: "Well, that's what drew

our attention. You were doing less than 20 mph and you didn't indicate when you came across the roundabout with us behind you. That's why I stopped you, and I smelled the alcohol on your breath." Driver: "Well, yes. Ah well. Goodnight, goodbye..." He appears resigned to losing his

Then comes the official warning that an arrest might follow a failure to give a breath sample, then the test



PC Ackinclose administers the alcotest on his North Typeside patch

itself, which proves quite an ordeal. And then the surprise After four attempts, the alcotest at last provides a reassuring bleep to indicate that it has accepted the sample. It

Well, you haven't passed and you haven't failed," PC Ackinclose tells the startled driver. "You're right on the borderline. Another half pint would have put you over the

top . . ." The driver is let off with a warning and told to leave his car and walk home. "I think he got a bit of a shock," says the PC with heavy

It has been a moderately successful night, so far, with Mick testing four motorists and then finding all their sam-ples negative on the latest al-

cotest meter, son of breathalyser — a small, bag-less warning.
In the bristing room before levice, measuring nine inche by three, which registers P (pass) or F (fail) on a liquid crystal screen shortly after a suspect blows into a tube for eight seconds. In borderline

PHOTOGRAPH: WILL WALKER

cases, an A for advise — i.e., warn — appears and officers can either take further action or let the motorist off with a

the shift, Sgt Stewart Ord has been reminiscing about the risk-takers seemingly oblivious to any warning — "the older guys, live near the pub,

who have a few drinks and still take a car" — and the occasional women who have made his life hell. "There's nothing worse than a drunker

female driver. Can be really objectionable." "Remember that last one a few weeks ago," says Mick.
"She could hardly walk. Had a bust up with a boyfriend. Did a U-turn and mounted the curb. She came over all weepy and had to be consoled."

Then there was the guy, a few years ago, who was literally legiess. "I was directing traffic," recalled Mick. "I beckoned the first car to come through and there was no movement. I walked over and opened the door and he fell out on to the road. There were a couple of empty vodka bottles on the floor."

These days, they are con-vinced that younger people, unlike some of their parents, are playing safe and heeding

the warnings of the pre-Christmas campaigns. But the two constables know that too many middleaged drivers are not.

For years, they have en-dured the wrath of motorists - 'Have you lot nothing better to do with your time?" — as they scour North Tyneside and beyond.

Side roads are often targeted, and in one they discover a young motorist with a faulty nearside headlight. "When did you last have a drink?" — "Two weeks' ago."

He passes the alcotest and then reveals that he had been stopped recently for a similar minor offence, and tested. He

is thanked for his time. PC Whittam, reveals that some of their successful drink-driving prosecutions are based on tip-offs.

"A customer in a pub might

have seen someone drinking a lot and then phones to say he's seen him getting into a car." But do they ever have sym-pathy for the offender. "Not at

all," says PC Ackinclose. PC Whittam remembers one serious accident a few years ago. "It ruined the life of a mate of mine, a PC, who was going home. A drink driver had a head-on with him and destroyed his career. He was

badly injured and pensioned out of the force." His colleague recalled an-other accident, just before

"A guy had become sepa-rated from a party of friends nd rather than organise a taxi he took his car. 'It was a wicked night, with

the roads almost flooded, and he lost control and hit a railway bridge. He was spun out of his car and died of head inju-

Tests later showed he had

Tracie Andrews, fiancé of murder victim Lee Harvey. weeps at last week's press conference

Woman held after road rage murder remains in hospital

DETECTIVES investigat-ing the alleged road rage murder of Lee Harvey last a 27-year-old woman arrested on Saturday in connection with the killing was his fian-

cee, Tracle Andrews. West Mercia police said the woman remained in hospital under police guard. It is before she is well enough to be Mr Harvey, aged 25, was stabbed more than 15 times and had his throat slashed in an isolated lane near his

home in Alvechurch, Worces-tershire, last Sunday. Miss Andrews, aged 27, was the only witness. At an emo-tional press conference last week, she said Mr Harvey had been attacked by a fat man with "starey eyes" who was a passenger in a dark Ford Si-erra the couple had overtaken in their white Escort.

she had been taken on Wednesday following a reported overdose. Police have examined the couple's home. Detective Superintendent

Ian Johnston last night said that the arrested woman had been "examined by a police surgeon and taken to hospi-tal. We have not and will not confirm the identity of that person".

He refused to comment on

The arrest came shortly anyone else in connection after Miss Andrews was with the murder, or whether

the weapon had been found. No mention was made of the Ford Sierra.

He appealed to anyone who saw Mr Harvey's car or any other vehicle travelling between the Marlbrook pub in Bromsgrove, where the cou-ple spent last Sunday eve-ning, and the murder scene, to contact police.

Among the floral tributes at the murder scene is one from Mr Harvey's fiancée. The card reads: "God Blesa. I love you. I hope you're still with me. I need you. Love Tracie, xxxx." John Tomlinson does as Wo-

Serb leader rejects way out of political crisis

Julian Borger in Belgrade

RESIDENT Slobodan appeared to turn his back on a face-saving compromise with anti-govern-ment protesters at the weekend when the supreme court turned down opposition ap-peals against the fixing of local election results in Belgrade.

The court faxed opposition lawyers the ruling late on Sat-urday night rejecting the first five of 46 complaints. It has issued no formal announcement, but officials from the pected the remaining cases all lodged on the same legal grounds — to be rejected.

The Belgrade election com mission had forwarded the same disputed results to the supreme court last week. A ruling by the court, generally believed to be under Mr Milosevic's control, could have provided a way out of the political crisis. It began three weeks ago when an apparently decisive opposi-tion victory in Belgrade and by local courts, unleashing a campaign of protest marches.

But yesterday's ruling was a clear sign that the president is not ready to give up control of the capital. Tens of thousands of students and resi-dents filled Belgrade's streets once again yesterday, to jeer the supreme court's decision and demand the ratification of the election results.

Forty opposition protesters, almost all students, have been arrested so far. Zajedno lawyers said they had been held in isolation illegally for sev-

One of the detainees, Dejan Bulatovic, aged 21, is reported to have been badly beaten by the police after being arrested on Priday and was in trees. need of medical care for head and chest injuries

He was one of a group of students who had paraded a foam-rubber effigy of Mr Milosevic (in prison clothes and wearing a ball and chain) through the streets of Belgrade on Friday.

Mr Bulatovic's mother, Lilljana, was allowed to visit him at the weekend. She said she found him naked on the concrete floor of a prison cell.
"He had difficulty dressing himself, breathing. He had a broken nose. He said they put a gun barrel in his mouth and | ried the results with the su-

said in a statement Zoran Djindjic, a Zajedno

eader, said the court ruling would strengthen the protest movement and predicted it would spread to other towns. The protests have so far been focused in Belgrade and Nis and a handful of other industrial areas, but there have been solidarity marches in recent days in Novi Sad and

Valjevo.
Mr Djindjic played down speculation of an impending wave of strikes, pointing out that the economy was funcworkers are on indefinite paid leave.

"First we have to get workers back to work before we can have a strike," he said. But he predicted a growing number of factory workers

would join the marches. Vesna Rakic-Vodinelic, Zajedno lawyer, said the court had not explained why it had rejected the opposition ap-peals. "We can only conclude that the supreme court issued its judgment on political orders," she said. Belgrade's election commission also quepreme court, and reportedly received the same response.

Last month's opposition election victories were annulled by local courts after the ruling Socialist Party (SPS) had appealed against the results, but Mrs Rakic-Vodinelic said Zajedno had not appeals. This, she said, was "contrary to all normal legal procedure". Nevertheless, the supreme court backed the municipal court rulings.

gains were annulled, the co-alition took part in a further tioning at 20 per cent round of voting and won. But capacity. An estimated 60 per cent of the country's 2 million Zajedno boycotted the poll rerun, and took their cases to the courts. It is the fate of these three cities which is now at the heart of the

Mr Milosevic has so far said nothing in public about the demonstrations, but the state-run media has de-nounced the protesters as

In an apparent change of tack at the weekend designed to appeal to Serb nationalist sentiment, the official press portrayed the protesters as manipulated by the Muslim-

Wagnerian triumph by Domingo

Review

Martin Kettle

Die Walküre Royal Opera House

HERE is no point in pretending that anyone in the audience for this one-off Die Walkure at spectacular prices had come to judge Richard Jones's controversial Ring cycle in possibly its final public showing. They had come for one reason only, to hear Placido Domingo's first London Wagner role, as

he tragic Siegmund. Like all grandee singers of a certain age, Domingo these days likes to do the roles his own way, genuflecting in only limited ways to what a mere passing director requires. His epertoire of stage gestures, though not inexpressive, is limited to the tried and tested He does not fling himself about the stage, as, in this pro-duction, the irrepressible

tan. And he will not allow himself to be got up to look absurd, as Jones's production requires many of the other characters to be.

And yet, having said all that, Domingo did far more than merely wander around someone else's production while singing his pre-pack-aged Siegmund. He submitted himself to one of the most dramatic trap-door entrance in Jones's staging. And his acting in the so-called Annur ciation of Death scene with Brünnhilde in Act Two was genuinely intense and

But it was, of course, his singing which really set him apart. Domingo announced himself with the most grandil oquent piece of vocal phrasing of Siegmund's first lines that I have heard in my life and ther proceeded to give an account of this great role in which nearly every phrase contained

omething new to think about His German, it has to be cult to understand. But the breadth of his expressivene more than compensates for

for Domingo, Siegmund is a series of set pieces linked together by passages that require less precise and

audibly went up a whole gear at the long monologue about his childhood, and, left alone on stage, he strode down to the footlights to deliver the most prodigiously sustained second call of "Wälse!" that can have been heard at Covent Garden

since the war.

His rendering of Wintersturme was almost like a concert aria but was absolutely exemplary nonetheless. Who other than the most Beckm serish purist, is going to com-plain about that? It is, after all Wagner who wrote these

It felt odd to hear Wagner rung like this. But then it is odd, unique even. London Wagner audiences have not wagner attaches have not heard such beautiful and effortless legato singing from a tenor for years, with the arguable exception of Siegfried Jerusalem at his best. For once, though, here was a Wagner tenor who not only sang every

it with phrasing and line. Domingo reminded us that Wagner's tenor parts are not actually written to be barked and battled with, but to be sung, caressed, and, yes, even enjoyed. Let us hope that there will be more Wagner from

him in future seasons. While Domingo was the centre of attention, the rest of the singing was of a very high order, too, particularly Debo-rah Polaski's beautifully secure Brünnhilde and Karen Huffstodt's exciting Sieglinde. On any other night, John Tomlinson's almost maniacal Wotan would be worth several

paragraphs. This Die Walküre contained one further tremendous schievement. In Italian opera Simone Young's conducting can sound too driven. But to conduct a one-off performance of Die Walkure with such sureness of touch and uncluttered eloquence is proof of a very special talent. She was, to put it simply, better even than Bernard Haitink, And that means she was very, very good indeed.



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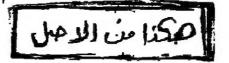
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Mothers and baby doing well

Surrogate gran gives birth for daughter

HREE generations were doing well in a Darlington hospital yesterday — Brit-ain's first surrogate grandmother, Edith Jones, her daughter, Suzanne, and their baby, Caitlin. But while Mrs Jones's act of generosity in giving birth to her daugh-ter's child was universally applauded, questions were

raised about the future.

Mrs Jones, 51, gave birth by caesarean section to Caitlin, who weighed 5lb 3oz, last Thursday after 36 weeks of pregnancy. Suzanne was unable to carry a child because the has no womb, but produced eggs which were fertilised, through IVF, with the sperm of her husband, Chris Langston, and then implanted

n her mother's womb. Gillian Lockwood, clinical research fellow in fertility at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, saw advantages in the child's grandmother having been the surrogate. "You only have to go back a generation and you've got mothers and grandmothers living together and supporting each other.
"I would have thought it

was, dare I say, back to basics. It allows the grand-mother a fuller role."

She added: "This is a solu tion to a tragic and rare medical problem which make everybody happy and nobody

unhappy." Mrs Jones has said she feels "just like an ordinary grandma", but admitted in an interview with the Mail on Sunday, which paid for rights to the story: "Even with a normal grandchild it is a struggle not to interfere. I am going to have to stand back and not keep reminding her of what I have done for her."

Deborah Steiner, a psychoanalyst and child psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic and author of books on child development, said: "There is bound to be some extra feeling on behalf of the grandmother which might exacer-bate any potential rivalry between mother and daugh ter. If she has actually carried the child, she has more of a

vested interest. turn to their mothers at a some example of motherly time like this and that's natural. But there is always the possibility that the father feels excluded. The mother realistically: "I'm not sure it could work for everybody. I and daughter may have got even closer in this situation of motherly favour of using her mum is that a lot of problems can them being that the surrogate may not give the baby up. We felt this would not happen," think there could be difficult be said.



Kim Cotton, Britain's first surrogate mother, who called the case "a wholesome example of motherly love"

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

and made him feel even more | ties involved, but it depends left out."

Among those who foresaw problems ahead was Dame Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, who said: "My own feeling is that lt's very strange for any child to be saddled with a mother who is its grandmother. "She bore it. I would have

thought if you bear a child, you are the child's mother. There might well be identity crises in the future."

Steve Dickinson, a spokes-man for the leading surrogate organisation in this country. Cots (Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy) — founded by Kim Cotton, Britain's first surrogate mother ams are, surrogate monter—called the case "a whole-some example of motherly love ... an absolutely wonderful thing".

on the way they approach it."

Cots had helped a woman become a surrogate mother for her sister's baby, which had been a happy and suc-cessful arrangement, he said But with all family involve ments there could be compli-cations because of the strength of feeling between the adults. "Where there are siblings, there are love/hate relationships and the love

The family's treatment cost 53,500 at the private Park Hos-pital in Nottingham. John Webster, medical director of fertility, said he felt the surrogacy arrangement was a good one. "One of the arguments in

ends to be very, very strong,"

He explained how Mrs Jones, five years into the menopause, was prepared for pregnancy. "We mimicked pregnancy by gradually increasing the amount of oestrogen we gave. We can measure the thickness of the lining of the uterus. Then we introduced progesterone," he

"It's just hormone replace-

ment therapy. It can only be beneficial and she felt well through the pregnancy." With two of Suzanne's fertilised eggs implanted into Mrs Jones's womb, there was the risk that both embryos would develop, said Mr Web-ster. "I spent a lot of time talking to the family about it. They were prepared to accept that. They were counselled and a psychological profile was taken. The ethics committee was involved and they fall happy with the felt happy with the

Womb service

1985: Kim Cotton becomes Britain's first surrogate mother. She is paid £6,500 by an American couple, leading to a public outcry. She gives birth after one of her own eggs is inseminated artificially. Ms Cotton is paper for her story.

1985: The Surrogacy Act makes it illegal to profit from surrogate agree-ments, though "reasonable expenses" may be paid. In June 1991 Ms Cotton gives friend but is not paid.

1987: Pat Anthony, 48, from South Africa, becomes the world's first surrogate grandmother after she was implanted with eggs from her, daughter, Karen. She bore triplets.

1990: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act requir infertility centres to be li-

> 1995: An unnamed couple are granted full parental rights for their surrogate child. The landmark ruling means the couple bypass complex and costly adoption procedures.

censed and introduces fast-track procedures for legal

adoption of surrogate babies

1996: British Medical Association changes policy and ad-vises doctors to discuss surrogacy with couples where appropriate. It defines "reasonable expenses" as £7,000 to £10,000.

1996: First NBS-funded surrogate birth is planned at King's College Hospital,

Newton bid to end war over Willetts

tions" inquiry will tonight attempt to finalise a unanimous report on the behaviour of David Willetts, the Paymaster General, during an MPs' investigation into the case of the former minister, Neil

The MPs on the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee investigating the affair are said to be moving towards a report that is strongly worded but falls short of demanding that Mr Willetts should be suspended town Parliament. from Parliament.
Tony Newton, Leader of the

Tony Newton, Leader of the House, who chairs the committee, will try to get agreement from warring Tory and Labour MPs, who have spent 18 hours on the proposed wording of the report. The minister is said to be desperate to obtain unanimity to prevent a public row in the Commons over the fate of Mr Willetts, who has threatened to resign if MPs recommend he is suspended from Parliament for his bad behaviour.

MPs close to the hearing say that Mr Newton wants to

say that Mr Newton wants to say that Mr Newton wants to avoid at all costs a minority report from either disaffected Tories or Labour members which would bring the system of parliamentary investiga-tions into MPs' behaviour into disrepute.

The original inquiry by the Committee on Members' Interests followed the Guardian's disclosure two years ago that ministers Neil Hamilton cash from Mohamed al Fayed, the Harrods owner, for asking parliamentary questions in a

Tiny Rowlands, the Lonrho boss, from regaining control

A memo by Mr Willetts. then a new member of the Government's team of whips, was written on the day the story appeared. It floated with the committee chairman. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the possibility of "exploiting the good Tory majority" on the committee to ensure the issue was dealt with as quickly as

Alternatively, it suggested, the committee should decide to deler any investigation until after the conclusion of the libel action which Mr Hamilton had launched against the the Guardian.

The inquiry was duly held after Alex Carlile, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgom-ery, complained about the revelations in the Guardian that Mr Hamilton had accepted cash and shopping vouchers and had not de-clared his stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, owned by Mr al Fayed.

But the memo written by Mr Willetts only came to light recently after the Guardian subpoenaed documents from Richard Ryder, the former Chief Wils are rest of its de-Chief Whip, as part of its de-fence against the libel case brought against the news-paper by Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer. The case collapsed in September.

The affair is likely to damage Mr Willetts' reputation, and at worst could bring his resignation from his job in the Cabinet Office.

Tory loyalists are said to favour a rap on the knuckles but Tory rebels, Labour and the Liberals want a stronger condemnation. If they cannot agree tonight. Mr Newton has told them they must sit for ancampaign orchestrated by other three bours tomorro lobbyist Ian Greer to stop night.

Oldest life stories collected for 2000

RECORD of national eating habits and the life astories of Britain's 1,000 oldest people will be among the 72 projects in the Millennium celebrations.

Organiser Jeremy Sale said the aim was to create a snapshot of everyone's thoughts and minds. "Every person in the UK should contribute. The aim is to make them stakeholders in the Millen-nium celebrations."

Information for the projects will be gathered by a millen-nium roadshow featuring three giant spheres, to be called Millennium icons. which will visit 54 cities over two years in a £40 million ex-

The aim of the Millennium roadshow is to involve as many people as possible in the celebrations, say the orga-nisers, and to defuse the criticism that they are too Lon-

Mr Sale said the Nation's Stomach would "create a re-cord and understanding of dishes and specialities, and

possibly recover ones that have been lost." Local groups will be invited to submit recipes that most characterise their region. The best will be recorded in a mil-

ennium cookery book. Story Of A Lifetime is an attempt to compile an oral history of the nation. The 1,000 oldest people in the country will be asked to give ebration starting on January

information centres will stop personality.

and four weeks for visits by schools and groups as well as

For the Festival of Britain in 1951, an aircraft carrier hibition docked at ports around the country.

For the Nation's Stomach. women's institutes, the Guild of Food Writers and the media will be invited to submit suggestions. For the oral history project it is hoped that the Arts Council, Day Care Centres, Darby and Joan clubs and schools will take part. Schools will be helped to devise projects to make recordings of the memories of

people over retirement age. The Millennium Commission meets on Wednesday to consider the plans which will be paid for out of the escalat-ing budget for the Millen-

With corporate sector spon-sors still dragging their heels, Millennium Central, the oper-ating group for the celebrations, is still not assured of raising the £150 million needed in partnership

unding. The Millennium Commission has already pledged £200 million out of the £350 million budget, although the final figure could be as high as £800 million.

The 72 projects are in groups of six for each of the 12 themes around which the Millennium celebrations are being organised. These are: communications and information, business and enterprise, sport, youth and educarecollections of their life-times. These will be recorded on an electronic archive, ac-cessible at the Greenwich cel-fourth age, travel and leisure,

food and drink, and science, technology and transport.

Each theme will be spear The spheres, which will be spear-double as advertisements and headed by a well-known

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Gary Younge looks at the difficulties in classifying minority groups and hears the views of two people with parents of different races

Row greets plan for new ethnic labels in census

'Mixed-race' and 'black British' categories added for test run

LANS to include ethnic categories in the next census have fuelled an argument among politicians, academics and equal opportunities advisers about the best means of classifying minority groups.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys is to introduce a "mixed-race" and introduce a "mixed-race" and proven up here, and there are a significant number of black people who do not like calling themselves black Caribbean because they grown up here, and there are grown up here, and there are people of mixed-race who felt themselves forced to sign other because they could not see themselves on the form." introduce a "mixed-race" and a "black British" category on pilot census forms to be dis-

An Office of National Statis-tics spokesman said: "After consulting various groups we decided ... to float the idea of these new categories to see how people would respond.

We will assess the answers and see where we go from

The 1991 census, the first to ask questions about ethnicity. had nine categories: white, black Caribbean, black Afri-can, black other, Indian, Paki-stani, Bangladeshi, Chinese and any other ethnic group.

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, objects to both new categories: "Black Brit-ish doesn't mean anything in a census.

"All sorts of people define themselves as that, including Asians, Africans and Caribbeans. Even some of the Irish can than are black."

They are never accepted as white, so they have no choice.

"Both my children are mixed race. They see them-selves as black and have never had a problem with it." But with one in three black men living with or married to a white woman — according a report published by the Office of National Statistics last summer — the issue of mak-ing space for a mixed-race identity will become increasingly pressing. And as immi-gration controls tighten and the number of second and third generation black Britons increases, references to the Caribbean, Asian and African countries of their forebears may sound increas-

ingly oblique.

Tariq Modood of the Policy
Studies Institute, a think tank
on race, said: "The introduction of both categories ought

racial" category on the US census have been piloted, sparking a row between civil rights groups, government officials and mixed-race activists which led to a national demonstration in Washington this year by campaigners who demand such a category.
The pilots showed that most

people who ticked mixed-race had previously ticked "other". But one problem was that at least a quarter were actually white but the product of, say, Italian and French parents. "The problem is, nobody knows what it means," said a US researcher. David Owen, a research fel-low at Warwick University's Centre for Ethnic Studies, be-lieves similar issues could arise here. "It would be nice to include all people in these categories, but there are lots of problems," he said. "With both new questions

say they are black."

A mixed-race category would give the illusion that such people make up a self-sufficient racial or ethnic ribbean when their mother is group, he sald. "Society sees actually white and British."

Who do not want to negate people will say: Why do you want to know? Why is it relevant? What does it mean?. Then comes the question of how many generations back are you prepared to go."



Sebastian Naidoo, at his home yesterday, objects to being 'put in a box' by racial classifications



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Case 1

SEBASTIAN Naidoo's

"Other", but once he scrawled "human" over the whole lot. "I wanted to make fun of their questions and show them how arbitrary their racial categories were,"

make it easy for them to put me in a box like that."

While he recognises that ethnic monitoring has its uses, he is concerned that the information collected can be used to pigeon-hole people and further entrench racial

But if presented with the options of "Asian British" and "Mixed-race", as well as and "Mixed-race", as well as the others, seems to confuse race, on the last census, Mr Naidoo says he would put his

cross next to "Mixed-race". with serious reservations.

used," he said. "I would hope that a mixed-race category born Indian and his mother is white and British.

When presented with racial classifications in the past he has ticked either "Indian" or "But I would fear that it would just be an attempt to

"But I would fear that it would just be an attempt to find a place for those people who do not already fit into the racial puzzle. "In a society where racial

lines are very clearly drawn, if you are multi-racial you do area which is rarely catered for on official forms."
Mr Naidoo, aged 26, a student at the City University in London, said one category he

would not mark was "Asian British". "I'm not sure what they are trying to get at here, and I

use this information.

Case 2

CHRIS James's mother is Spanish and her father ribbean. When asked to fill in ethnic monitoring forms in the past she has usually ticked "Black other".

"It depends on the choices available," she said. "It just seems more appropriate, I wasn't raised by my father, so I don't feel the Caribbean had much impact on my identity."

If the two new categories were on the next census form, she said she would still tick "Black other".
"I don't think there is

enough of a mixed-race community or a mixed-race identity for that category to be very meaningful. It's very important that you have access to the kind of cultural resources that will help you to cope with your

life in Britain, and I don't know where mixed-race on their own."

Ms James, aged 23, a legal clerk, said she would cause of the associations that go with defining oneself as British. "I wouldn't want to attach myself to something like British when so much of the society still rejects black

She is married to a white man and is expecting a baby in the new year — and she is glad the issue is being aired. It is becoming increasingly complex as more and more mixing goes

on," she said.
"I don't think [choosing
Black British'] would be a
good idea now, but I would
hate to deny the choice to
future generations. By the time my child is my age things could be very different."

Yard to question diplomats over the arms-to Iraq affair

Richard Norton-Taylor

HREE British diplomats including an ambassador

including an ambassador, have been summoned home to be questioned by Scotland Yard over claims they perverted the course of justice in the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Graham Boyce, British Ambassador to Kuwait, Patrick Nixon, High Commissioner in Zambia, and Carsten Pigott, deputy head of the British Embassy in Addis Ababa, were questioned about their were questioned about their role in the conviction in 1985 of arms dealers who tried to sell 200 Sterling sub-machine

guns to Iraq via Jordan. The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday it had

Service said yesterday it had received a police report on the three diplomats.

The conduct of the diplomats — then based in the Foreign Office in London — was severely criticised by the Court of Appeal which quashed the conviction of the arms dealers, Reginald Dunk and Mr Schlesinger. They were fined £25,000 ::ffer pleading guilty at their Old Bailey trial in 1985.

dence obtained by the Scott

inquiry. It emerged that the diplo-mats approached staff at the lraqi and Jordanian embas-sies in London to persuade them not to give evidence on behalf of the defence.

In an unprecedented court indictment of Whitehall offi-cials, Lord Taylor, then Lord Chief Justice, said: "The machinations in this case to prevent witnesses for the defence being available ... constituted one. stituted such an interference

stituted such an interference with the justice process as to amount to an abuse of it."

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was awaiting the completion of the investigation. The diplomats had not been suspended and the Foreign Office had "full confidence" in them.

Disciplinary action would be considered only in light of the final CPS report.

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'Blowtorch' rail risk may cost millions to eliminate

Eurotunnel suffers wagons setback

Transport Editor

UROTUNNEL is resigned to the prospect of having to scrap or greatly modify its latd lorry wagons as a result of last month's fire in the Channel Tunnel. Sources in the industry say

the inquiry into the cause of the fire is convinced that the wagons, which have been shown to produce a blowtorch effect in the tunnel, add con-siderably to the fire hazard. Changing the wagons would cost millions of pounds and put off return to a normal service until well into next

year. Eurotunnel was carry-ing up to 13,000 lorries a week until the fire. Tomorrow its car shuttle between Calais and Dover restarts with two trains an hour. People who have al-ready booked tickets will

thority has insisted on extra safeguards for Eurostar pas-senger trains while the tunnel is repaired. At either end, crews are on 24-hour standby in half a train, ready to move towards the damaged section and evacuate passengers.

The interruption to Enrostar, the brief interruption to nications generally as one of freight services, and now the the lessons learnt from the indefinite suspension of fire it accepts that some key lorry-carrying services will staff might need a better cost Eurotunnel dearly, alknowledge of English or though its insurance covers French in the event of a most of its losses. Its revenue from the tunnel has been \$45 million a month.

At least half the damaged freight train will have to be replaced, at a cost of £10 million, and Eurotunnel estimates that insurance payouts for the burnt-out lorries will

The company has altered equipment used by French security staff to give them im-mediate access to the control centre if they need to raise an alarm. The staff, employed by the state, were unable to com-

municate direct when they noticed smoke coming from a freight wagon.

Staff on the British side are employed by the company and already had direct contact with control. Eurotunnel is looking to

improve its internal commu French police are still in

vestigating whether arson caused the fire. EuroTunnel said reports of fireworks being let off in the terminal area were received before the alarm was raised.

Other theories are that a fault in a lorry caused it, or a

primus slove.

The lorries had waited in rain for at least two hours before they could board the train, due to a wildcat strike which also interrupted pas-



Picture this . . . Peri Kemal-Orek with the Frank Averbach painting PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Sharp buyer gets answer on a postcard

Dan Glaister on a winner in an art sale where everything had its price: £30

ERI KEMAL-OREK was bewildered by all the attention. "I wasn't expecting any of this," said the 27year-old painter.

Ms Kemal-Orek, surrounded by photographers and television crews, had just collected the unsigned painting she bought on Tuesday at the Royal Col-lege of Art's Absolut Secret show. Ms Kemal-Orek had guessed well, choosing, from among 1,600 paintings all priced at £30, a painting by Frank Auerbach. It is probably worth £10,000.

The paintings, all on post-cards, were by celebrities and students as well as well-known artists.

The most recent Aperbach painting to sell at suc-tion fetched £22,000 in New York in November. An oil painting by the artist sold for £29,900 at Sotheby's in London this March. Ms Kemai-Orek, an art

student who contributed a picture to the show, had spotted the lone Auerbach after just five minutes in the gallery.
"His work is very distinc-

tive, but I've been worried all week because there are other artists putting copies in for the show," she said. The winner of the art lottery did have a head start, Vic Reeves.

however. Last year a friend of hers bought an Auerbach postcard at the same show. That was later valued at

210,000.
"I don't know if this one will be valued as high as that," she said. "I don't think it's as good as last year's." The first thing she was going to do as the proud owner of an Auer-bach original was to make sure she had house insur-ance, she said. She hoped to enjoy the picture rather than sell it.

Michael Morris had picked up a postcard by the Turner Prize nominee Simon Patterson. "I can't believe it, it's fantastic," he said, showing off his acqui-sition to a group of friends. Mr Morris bought his post-card on the second day of

the show.
"I spent half an hour looking round on Wednesday." he said. "I recognised it as a Simon Patterson be cause of the typeface. He's used it before." Mr Morris, who tried unsuccessfully to buy Patterson's signature work The Great Bear, a renamed London Underground map, said that his purchase was not an investment. "It's pleasure, definitely pleasure.

All the paintings were sold, raising £48,000 for the Royal College of Art Fine provides grants and hard-ship funds. The artists included John Bellany, Peter Blake, Marc Quinn, Paula Rego, Peter Doig, Sir Hugh Casson, David Bowie and

Welfare groups back calls for children's minister

David Brindle and Sue Quiru

HE next government should set up special structures for children's affairs to bring Britain in line with other countries, an in-quiry report says today. There should be a chil-

dren's policy unit in Whitehall, a minister with sole res-ponsibility for children and an inter-departmental group on children to ensure a co-ordinated approach across gov-ernment, according to the

report.
In addition, there should be a select committee on children in Parliament and a children's rights commissioner to act as an independent, statutory watchdog.

The recommendations have emerged from an investigacommissioned by the Gulben-kian Foundation, a charitable dren across Whitehall."

Child welfare groups are strongly supporting the pro-posals, including the children's charity, Barnado's, which yesterday released new research showing the lives of many young people in care are severely disrupted by frequent changes in accommoda tion and education.

The research, involving seven of the charity's projects in Scotland, showed that on average, young people were moved between children's homes and foster families 3.7 times before reaching a Barnardo's project; in the worst case, one primary school aged child had moved 40 times. John Rea Price, director of the National Children's Bureau, said: "It is surely

Structures fr Children: Turneround Publishers time for central government to practise what it preaches and give leadership to a co-

tive of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, said: "If we are to protect children effectively, all developments in legisla-

"They need day-to-day co ordination of the sort that the office of a minister for children could and should

tion and policy must be child-

The inquiry report says existing government structures are falling the 13 million under 18s and compare poorly with arrangements in other countries such as Ireland, Denmark and South Africa.

Services, 3 Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Road, London N22 6TZ; £10.95 plus £2 p&p

Home brew firm attacked for alcopop kit

ANORWICH home brew manufacturer yesterday drew widespread condemna tion for launching a do-it-yourself alcopop kit which can legally be sold to under-

A loophole in the law applying to all home-brew kits means Splooch, marketed by Continental Wine Experts as

The

bought by under-18s because | said: "This product should be it is not alcoholic at the time

The £4.99 kit, which carrie a carboon logo on the front showing two drunken eyes, takes 10 days to turn 18 stan-dard 330ml bottles of soft-drink into 27 bottles with a strength of 5 per cent alcohol by volume. It also includes instructions on boosting wines and beers so they become as

strong as 15 per cent. Nigel Griffiths, Labour's added to soft drinks, can be | consumer affairs spokesman, | drinkers."

withdrawn without delay. It has been marketed in the knowledge that teenagers can legally purchase it."

Richard Danby, the manufacturer's technical director, denied it was almed at teen-

agers. "We will take on board all the comments that have been made although we are unlikely to withdraw it. It is meant to be the home-brew equivalent of alcopops but we are not targeting under-age

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Hong Kong's rigged race nears the finish 5,000 protesters held

A handshake in Beijing has turned an 'election' into an empty ritual, writes **Andrew Higgins**

made a fortune. Poll-sters hit pay dirt. The process of select-ing a post-colonial governor to take over from Chris Patten in 204 days has been elaborate, exuberant, expensive and almost entirely empty.

The ritual looks set to reach

a scripted finale on Wednesday, when a 400-member selection committee gathers to "elect" the Shanghai-born shipping magnate Tung Chee-hwa as the first chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
After weeks of frenetic glad-

handing in housing estates, schools and temples, it is clear that the only handshake that really mattered took place 11 months ago in Beij-ing's Great Hall of the People, when China's president, Jiang Zemin, held out his hand to Mr Tung — and a phalanx of photographers recorded the endorsement. This is not a race but a

farce ... China is here already. It is coming in thick and fast," said Emily Lau, a legislator who campaigned fruitlessly for a popular poll. A Hong Kong convention centre is being refurbished

for Wednesday to replicate the decor of the Great Hall in Beijing. Among those stage-managing the production is Shiu Sin-por, the head of a pro-China think-tank who spent last week denying reports that he had fallen asleep on the podium while interviewing prospective

is rigged, said Mr Shiu. should not spoil the fun, espe-cially since Britain named 28

OTEL banquet rooms | colonial governors without consulting anyone, "People still bet big money at Happy Valley [race course] even if they think the race is fixed, because no one is ever certain who will win. Of course, in the end there is only one sure winner: the Jockey Club." China has made sure it is in

much the same position: it picked the preparatory com-

Tung: China's choice to acceed the governor

tion committee that picks the chief executive. Two other 'candidates" are still nominally in the running — a for-mer chief justice who genu-flected before the new order by renouncing his knight hood, and a businessman who married into one of Hong Kong's wealthiest dynasties.
"These people live in cloud

well. But he cannot disclose

a party for Jewish expatri-

says it is picking up slowly, although the biggest project

of all — to link the emirate with Israel and Europe by a

them as we find them.

office accommodation."

by the previous government. Meanwhile, Israel partially

reopened a street in Hebron

that has been closed to Pales-tinian traffic for two years.

Opening the street is a key

David Bar-Illan, an aide to

Mr Netanyahu, said Mr Arafat sent a message which would reopen all previous agreements. The Palestinians

are also demanding a time-table for an Israeli with-

Palestinian demand.

"They actually thought they had a chance. I feel sorry for them. They are so stupid." Mr Tung, a graduate of Liv-erpool University, has denied any significance in his handshake with President Jiang.
"I think it was really just a
handshake. It was just the way the seats were organised and because I was sitting way out at the corner he just came over to shake my hand."

But with less than seven months before Britain pulls out, many in Hong Kong have mastered the mainland's coded political vernacular.
The handshake was a clear signal . . The implication was

obvious," said Frederick Fung, a Hong Kong politician Chinese officials have never told us who to vote for, but there are only 400 people vot-ing and they understand what they should do." Mr Fung knows the perils

of not toeing the line. He collided with political etiquette earlier this year, casting the sole dissenting voice in the preparatory committee against plans to disband the elected legislative council after the handover. He was denounced by a senior Chinese official.

Yet he was still given a seat on the selection committee, a gesture he sees as a sign that Beiling can sometimes toler-ate different shades of opinion. He also believes China has done more than Britain. When the Queen appointed the governor, people in Hong Kong had never even heard of him. He didn't even have a name in Chinese," he said.

Ms Lau is unimpressed.
"Why use the yardsticks of a colony to measure the Special Administrative Region? This denigrates the future. It is also an admission that Hong Kong is going to be another colony ... We want to use some higher benchmarks."

HOUSANDS people were de-tained by Indian police yesterday former chief minister of southern Tamil Nadu known

her imprisonment on corruption charges.

Ms Jayalalitha, a former film star whose puffy visage once stared down on her sub-jects from thousands of bill-boards in a bizarre personal-ity cult, was arrested during her morning prayers on Sat-urday on charges of allowing bureaucrats to siphon off 85 million rupees (£1.67 million) which was meant to be spent installing 45,000 colour television sets in villages in

popularly as Amma or

mother, went on a statewide tantrum to protest against

the south Indian state. She bedded down on the lation two sheets and a pillow during her first night in Madras central jail on Saturday, and supped on rice gruel.

However, prison authorities, worried by the violent protests, upgraded Ms Jayala-litha yesterday to more luxu-

water, newspapers, solid food | alleged corruption to tax eva-and mineral water. | sion and misuse of foreign today, although previous efforts to avoid prison by seeking advance bail have seeking advance bail have failed. She faces charges in

corruption charges

Although voters threw out Ms Jayalalitha's All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Ka-zagham (AIADMK) party in elections last May, she still rious accommodation, en-titling her to a mattress, hot six other cases ranging from

Ms Jayalalitha steps from a police van after her arrest on

rules some hearts in Tamil Nadu. A fanatical supporter died in hospital yesterday after setting himself alight, and loyalists set fire to three uses and attacked 75 others in her northern stronghold of Arcot district. More than 5,000 people were detained across the state.

Ms Jayalalitha's regime began to crumble last year after she lavished millions of rupees on the wedding of her foster son, a relative of her close companion, Sasikala Natrajan, who has spent the last six months in the same jail wing on charges of violat-ing foreign exchange con-trols. Even the most conservatrols. Even the most conserva-tive estimates put the cost of the wedding at £2 million, an unimaginable extravagance and the former prime minisunimaginable extravagance for a chief minister who claimed to draw a token monthly salary of one rupee. Since her electoral humilia tion, more than half of Ms Jayalalitha's cabinet ministers have been charged with corruption and other crimes After suffering her authori tarian rule in silence for five

years, some members of her ALADMK party have broken away to form a rebel wing. She told reporters at the weekend that the charges against her were fabricated, adding. This is nothing but

ers sent to evaluate Ms Jaya-lalitha's treasure trove of jewellery, yesterday scarched her mansion in Madras, and the other properties she accumulated during her five-year

reign.
Ms Jayalalitha is accused of over-ruling finance officials who said the 14,500 rupee price tag on each television set was artificially inflated. statements on kickbacks from The televisions were meant for educational purposes But despite her present tra-

vails, she remains in august company. The former Indian ter, P. V. Narasimha Rao, is also on trial for corruption.

Doctors treating Mother Teresa in Calcutta said yesterday that she had suffered a setback in her recovery from pneumonia and they were condition

They said she was suffering from bronchial pneumonia which had not yet responded to antibiotics or respiratory treatment. The 86-year-old num underwent surgery on November 29 to clear two She will stay at least another

地震を示するとうか

arte heart hear

Bred Thurs

Hard job selling

The high hopes of a heads Israel's Doha office, remains a professional peace premium are withering on the vine, Kathy Evans in

The anonymous building is the headquarters of Qatar's

The handshake between the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and Israel's then into the most coveted market in the Middle East, the oil-

It was left to two of the region's smallest states, Qatar and Oman, to set the pace. Both welcomed visits by Israeli officials, received the former prime minister, Shimon Peres, and promised to open offices in Tel Aviv.

Doha. On May 31, Mr Netanyahu came to power. Since then, hopes of big business deals in the Guif impasse over Israel's reluc-

Sheikh Hamed bin Khalifa al-Thani, to freeze relations.

Despite this, Mr Ravel, the 33-year-old diplomat who same direction."

AN Israeli official accused the Palestinian leader.

Yasser Arafat, yesterday of making demands that would

reopen almost every clause

agreed upon in negotiations over security arrangements

the West Bank town of

But Mr Arafat's office blamed the government of the

AP in Jerussiem

Sex assault dangers of

Mark Tran in New York

"It's not like you think," he says. "I'm not the loneliest man in Qatar. I have lots of Qatari friends and business people still want to talk to us." Mr Ravel says his social calendar is full and not just with invitations from other foreign diplomats, but from Qataris and other Arabs as dating.

"At the moment we are in the midst of celebrating the-Hanukah festival, and we had

ates, but a lot of other people came along too," he says. "We don't judge our friends according to religion. We take

gas fields — appears to have ground to a halt. "The experts are still studying it," Mr Ravei says ruefully. He says trade in other areas is underway, and Israeli goods are already arriving in Qatar. But he cannot reveal

"It's small, but you would expect that wouldn't you?" Two weeks ago business-men from eight israeli security companies attended an exhibition in Doha. The Israeli display attracted many Qataris, most curious to meet

their first Israelis, says Mr people, much more dynamic and less inhibited than thought they would be."
However, Qataris say in private that, apart from offi-

shunned by those who count. wanted to be the first businessman in Doha to rent them As Mr Ravel says, the road to peace, and commerce, is not easy. "At least we are still

ture her to death.

A grand jury is scheduled to meet today to decide whether to indict the man, who claims he accidentally strangled her during sex. Mr Jovanovic's parents have vigorously protested

their son's innocence. Sabina Joyanovic, a violinist with the New York City Ballet, said: "He is a wonderful person and he has our full support." His father, Svetozar, i chess coach at the elite Dalon school in New York. Oliver Jovanovic, who was to defend his doctoral disser-

tation later this month, was described by classmates and professors as a brilliant stu-dent, who had developed a pioneering computer programme to analyse complex proteins. After completing his PhD, he had planned to start a software company with his brother to market his innova-



by a Columbia University graduate student after they met on the Internet has betale about the perils of online

Mr Jovanovic allegedly tied up the woman with strips of cloth, gagged her mouth with tape, sexually assaulted her,

lighted the risks of meeting strangers in cyberspace "chat room", the 1990s version of singles' bars.

charges of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl in Connectisure whether to laugh or cry over the antics of their cut whom he met online. De ectives say the man travelled to Connecticut last January, arranged to meet the girl and recently inaugurated The election of Abdalá Bucaram, a flamboyant

net. Investigators who later read her e-mail say she had tried to hire someone to tor-

"This country suffers from a deficit of common sense," laments an Ecuadorean diplomat. Evelyn, who works for a car rental company, adds: "It makes me ashamed for my country to think that people abroad will be read-ing about this." Bad enough, say the em-barrassed quiteños, were Mr Bucaram's pre-election ac-

tivities: singing rock songs, leaping out of helicopters, describing his opponent as a drug-financed anti-Christ and using vulgar, undiplomatic language on the least appropriate occasions.
But any idea that the donning of the presidential
sash might prompt him to
tone down the language —

populist from the steamy port-city of Guayaquil, has

been greeted here as if the hunatics had taken over the

or the lunacy — has long since been dismissed as hopelessly optimistic. During a period which included seven postpone-ments of his plan of govern-

HE middle and upper classes of this chilly Andean capital are not ment, the president kept the cabinet waiting while he played football, sang and danced at the "Miss Banana 1996" beauty contest, had his moustache shaved off for charity and welcomed Ecuadoreanborn Lorena Bobbitt as a

making him enemies, writes Phil Gunson in Quito

national heroine.

More seriously, he has stacked the cabinet with his family, close friends and campaign contributors and presides over a govern-ment riven with internal disputes and already facing ethical issues.

"One of the problems, is that his word means abso-lutely nothing," says a for-mer presidential chief of staff, Gonzalo Ortiz, of the magazine Gestion.

"The other is the arbitrary nature of his

by all of this seems to be Mr

Residents of Cuarto Pueblo, a village in northern Gustemala, carry coffins containing the remains of 300 people massacred by the country's army in 1982 during its brutal counter-insurgency campaign. The burned and mutilated remains were found in mass graves in the village last year. Relatives have asked that a peace deal to be signed later this mouth does not include an amnesty for the soldiers responsible

Ecuador's chief lunatic takes over the asylum

Bucaram, who delights in his nickname of El Loco the madman — and says he no longer needs to seek popularity "because I am already the president". This is just as well, since polls indicate that his ratings have plummeted from the upper-50s to the mid-30s

since his inauguration. One reason could well be his somersaults over economic policy. A self-styled "friend of the poor" and a fierce opponent of the free market, Mr Bucaram railed against "the oligarchy" during his campaign, but with everything from alco-on being elected said he hol abuse to animal rights.

Argentina's former econo Argentina's former economy minister. Domingo Cavallo — the chief guru of his opponent, Jaime Nebot — to redesign the economy. Announcing the plan on television and radio, President Bucaram described it as nothing less than a political and economic revolu-tion, and himself as the only man who could save

At its heart is a fixed exchange rate of 4 sucres to the dollar, which opponents say may be fine in theory but requires disci-pline, credibility and tech-nical skills of which the Bucaram government has so far shown no evidence.

Mixed to was a ragbag of social measures reflecting the president's obsession

The new president delights in his nickname and shows no sign of curbing his populist antics — but his arbitrary decisions are making him enemies, writes **Phil Gunson** in Quito

| Saw no need for radical straight from the pen of Garcia Marquez." says Freddy Ehlers, who as an independent presidential independent presidential. independent presidential candidate won a fifth of the votes in the first round. "He thinks he's pre-

destined, and he creates things and undoes them from one day to the next." The quitelos are particularly upset with the new president because he de-tests the capital city, which he describes as too cold. He shuns the presidential

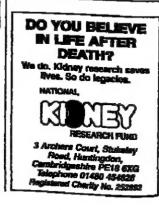
palace, preferring to stay in a hotel, and at a moment's notice he is liable to take the entire cabinet off to the

There are already those who believe Mr Bucaram will not make it to the end of his term. He has spent two lengthy periods in extle in Panama as a result of his activities while mayor of Guayaquil — and seems once again to be making enemies.



"If art schools concentrated on teaching students technical skills instead of marketing skills, these artists could make their own work." David Dawson and Kathleen Kelly of KD Digital

Arts G2 page 12



Israel to Arabs

Doha, Qatar, writes

OUSE 29 looks just like any other in the sprawling complex of luxury villas in Doha's most expensive suburb, West Bay. Apart from the two tubby Qatari policemen sitting outside with machine guns, that is.

smallest and newest diplomatic community — the Israelis. The presence of the three diplomats, two wives and two children dates from the better days of the peace process, before Binyamin Netanyahu became Israel's prime minister and Arabs and Israelis were not only go-ing to make peace together, but business as well.

prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, launched the Israelis rich states of the Gulf.

For the purposes of trade, not politics, naturally.

It was in those heady days that Shmuel Ravel came to

have faded along with the peace process. Last week, the tance to redeploy its troops in Hebron led Qatar's emir,

Arafat's demands 'would

mean reopening peace deal'

prime minister, Binyamin drawal from rural areas in Netanyahu, for holding up a the West Bank promised in

Hebron deal by trying to the interim agreement signed change the agreement signed by the previous government.

case reveals online dating

For weeks, Oliver Jovanovic, aged 30, a molecular biology student, chatted online with his alleged victim, a philosophy student, about their favourite books, films and

interests. About two weeks ago, they met for dinner, after which she accepted his invitation to watch videos at his flat. She was then subjected to a 20hour ordeal, according to investigators, who charged Mr Jovanovic with aggravated

sexual abuse last Thursday.

He is being held on Rikers
Island while his family tries pipeline from Qatar's glant to raise his \$350,000 (£230,000)

showed her pictures of corpses and threatened to cut her body into pieces, like the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer who dismembered his victims, before releasing her. The case has further high

Police in Fresno, Califor-nia, have arrested a man on

In the most notorious case a computer analyst apparently arranged her own strangling through the Inter-

Tensions rise on Greek roads to nowhere

Helena Smith speaks to British lorry drivers trapped in the port of Patras and fearing for their livelihoods as the farmers' blockade spreads

loves Greece but, after another day stuck inside the cabin of his many British lorry drivers who have seen enough of it for the time being.

In the 11 days since furious farmers began protest-ing against the Athens gov-ernment's austere budget

EATH Pinder hundreds of international for Kalamata, Mr Pinder loves Greece but, lorries have been trapped has spent most of his time after another day in the port of Patras. The lorries have been trapped in the port of Patras. The wait is beginning to tell.

"It's just been nightmarish," said Mr Pinder, from Newcastle. "A blockade like the is warden to the like this is going to make a

lot of us hankrupt. As an owner-driver I stand to lose around £5,000 for this trip alone. It's been, well, bloody disastrous." Since arriving in Greece

tricht treaty.
"In 30 years of driving

've never seen industrial unrest throughout Europe before," said Mr Neal, who had been en route to Athens with a cargo of electri-cal goods from his hometown of Swindon.

T'm a staunch advocate of European monetary. union but in places like Greece, where prices have trebled in the past two years, it's clear people are really suffering. Personally, I don't blame the farmer

thetic. As the revolt inten-sified over the weekend following the farmers' decision to build more barri-cades and extend the protest to Crete, foreign truckers began furiously erecting counter-blockades to try to stop them moving more tractors on to motor ways. Police said tensions

between the two groups had reached fever pitch in many parts of the country, with growing numbers try-ing to run the blockade.

"I know of one English-man who got badly beaten up with baseball bats when he tried to From what I understand man who got badly beaten they're going bankrupt."
With no signs of the he tried to get past the bar-

Mr Pinder. "Up north where people are trapped around the borders there have been a lot of cases of people getting broken noses and black eyes."

Clearly alarmed by the scale of the uprising, the prime minister, Costas Simitis, has hastily dispatched senior politicians to the countryside in a bid to defuse the crisis.

Yesterday Mr Simitis, who is determined to apply his stringent fiscal policies if Greece is to keep pace with its richer European partners, was quoted as saying he would rather his

tracks by those denouncing | blockade ending, not all | ricade outside Patras," said | in to the farmers' demands. | hardened the farmers' the inequities of the Mass- | truckers are as sympa- | Mr Pinder. "Up north | The farmers want cheaper | resolve. Despite growing higher produce prices.
With much of the public

sector also striking over the budget later this week, the socialists fear that bowing to the farmers would prompt a wave of similar requests.

Everyone who voted for this government in Septem-ber knew what its policies were," Mr Simitis said. "Greece's future lies with European monetary union and I am not prepared to derail the country's course towards it."

But Mr Simitis' tough

stance appears only to have

resolve. Despite growing shortages of food, medicine and raw materials, the farmers have said they will tighten the noose around Athens by closing the bridge across the Corin-thian canal today. The bridge connects the capital with fertile Peloponnese. "When Athens starts to

go hungry then maybe the people who run it will start to do business with us," said one of the blockade's

That, say officials, will be a bridge too far and give the government no option

Franco-German drive invites row with Britain

lan Traynor in Bonn

ERMANY and France will today push for greater European integration in foreign and domestic policy-making, fur-ther isolating Britain and compounding the crisis beset-ting John Major.

At a Franco-German summit in the Bavarian city of Nuremburg, Chancellor Hel-mut Kohl and President Jacques Chirac are expected to step up their drive for "flexi-ble" pooling of European Union foreign policy-making
— effectively allowing some member states to forge ahead unrestrained by the veto of laggards such as Britain. They will also call for greater integration in police and

The two leaders are to issue a letter ahead of next week-end's EU summit in Dublin, spelling out further areas in which they favour common and integrated policies.

German and senior EU sources said the joint initiaerations to combat internasupporting Irish-drafted tions in member states," moves to lift border controls said. "It has to be our ain within the EU by 2001.

The Irish call, contained in last week's draft EU treaty, is anathema to Britain. The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, who pledged last week to retain British border controls, is due in Bonn tomorrow for negotiations with Manfred Kanther, the German interior minister.

Today's Nuremburg pro-posal for an integrated police authority, and transnational visa, immigration and justice policies, could trigger a fresh row with Mr Howard. The present EU chair, Ire-land's Taoiseach, John Bru-

ton, conferred with Mr Kohl in Bonn last Friday on the Dublin agenda. Sources said today's summit would concentrate on law and order and immigration.

Mr Kohl is keen to push the Europol police agency, based in The Hague, as an EU equivalent of the United States' FRL The German justice minister, Edzard Schmidt-Jorzig, said at the weekend that Europol's said. "It has to be our aim to turn Europol into the pan-EU

whether he will have

you daren't leave your trailer for fear it will be

As European Union

countries strive to reach targets for monetary union.

truckers like Mr Pinder and his friend, Rhys Neal,

enough money for food.

broken into," he said.

Since Germany bears the brunt of immigration from the Balkans and eastern Surope, Mr Kohl also want common visa, asylum, and immigration policies. But the French have objec-

tions. Despite today's planned show of unity and resolve, the Franco-German partnership is less than all-embracing. Officials from both sides struggled at the weekend to paper over the cracks. Bonn and Paris are

reported to be at odds on the rigorous "stability pact" Germany seeks as the rulebook for the single European cur-rency, on the appointment of an EU foreign policy planning and analysis unit, and on defence and military cooperation.

At their summit in Baden-Baden a year ago, the two leaders agreed to a joint spy satellite project, for which the German defence minister, Volker Rithe, now says there tive would focus on police op-erations to combat interna-"Europol should be extended. is no money. Yet to cancel it would be highly embarrasswhile conduct its own investigating for Mr Kohl.



Two girls light candles below graffiti of the legendary Beatle John Lennon at his memorial wall in Prague yesterday. Dozens of people come here every year to mark the anniversary of the musician's death

World news in brief

German to head new Nato force in Bosnia

staff of Nato's follow-on force in Bosnia, German's defence ministry said yesterday.

The officer — whose name has not been released — will take up his post in the new year in the Sarajevo head-year in the Sarajevo head-quarters of the stabilisation clous fight against local quarters of the stabilisation clous fight against local and naval units for the

Truce agreed

RMY mutineers agreed on a 15-day truce with the government of the Central

African Republic yesterday after mediation by African heads of state to halt a slide

into bloodshed, a spokesman

for the mutineers said.

The deal was signed during lengthy talks at the French embassy in the capital, Ban-

gut, he said. The presidents of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad

began meetings with both parties on Saturday. Under

the deal. Mall's former mili-tury leader, General Amadou Toumani Toure, one of a handful of African leaders to

hand over power voluntarily, will examine the causes of the

crisis. - Reuter.

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in Bangui

Germany's role in any peacekeeping operation in the Balkans has long been contro-versial, both domestically and On Wednesday Boun apinternationally because of Nazi Germany's second world war occupation and its vi-

Thousands in

'race' march

Tens of thousands marched

AGERMAN major-general implementation force (I-For) serve under the United States will become the chief of on December 20. took control of all Nato-led

proved the assignment of up to 3,300 soldiers to S-For. The

The German officer will force.—Reuter.

Transatlantic club to rule on new members

Eastern European hopefuls will be watching tomorrow's Nato meeting with bated breath, report **David Fairhall** and **Ian Black**

American heads of state con-

grants and Aborigines. The protest was staged amid a bitter national debate on whether Australia should continue to take in Asian newcomers and on how much should be spent on the wel-fare of Aborigines. — AP.

Ghana poll race Ghana's populist president Jerry Rawlings looked to have a fight on his hands yes-terday, as his main rival John Kufuor and his opposition alliance edged into an early lead after presidential and parliamentary elections. Pro- soup, a ne-visional results gave Mr Ku- reported.—Reuter.

with 199,373 for Mr Rawl War on poverty

fuor 259,230 votes compared

through Melbourne, Australia, yesterday against what they claimed is growing rac-ism targeted at Aslan immicluded a summit in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, yes-terday by calling for an all-out war on poverty to assure pro tection of the world's habitats and economic growth. - AP.

> Dissident jailed The state security court in Manama, Bahrain, has jailed Abbas Yousef Mohammad, an opposition activist, for three

years for joining an illegal organisation. — AP. Cat soup fine Lam Yui-tin, aged 39, a chef, was fined HK\$2,000 (£167) in Hong Kong yesterday for kill-ing a cat to make a hotpot

queueing for membership will be successful. The final choice will not be nnounced until a special unmit next summer, but a shortlist of candidates is bound to emerge from the de-

liberations in Brussels tomorrow and be passed on to mili-tary staffs for assessment. The shortlist can hardly remain secret for long, so unless Nato's door opens wider than expected, the intervening months are likely to see much recrimination among rejected candidates. a newspaper

ATO foreign ministers are preparing to issue the most sought-after invitations of the diplomatic season when they meet this week to decide which of the 11 eastern European countries to persuade Moscow that an enlarged alliance poses it no threat. One conciliance when the most possible immediately — a declaration from tomorrow's meeting that Nato has no intention of declaration to the state of Bosnia — where Russian troops already co-operate closely with the Americans. And since Nato council decisions are taken by consensus. Moscow would in effect acquire a veto. Creation of a joint council ploying tactical nuclear

weapons on the territory of its new eastern members "under would be the centrepiece of a proposed security charter embodying the strategic part-nership between Russia and the Atlantic alliance, and em-phasising that this goes oreseeable circumstances".
On Wednesday, the Nato ministers will meet their Russian counterpart, Yevgeny deeper than the already estab-lished Partnership for Peace (PFP), which includes other Primakov, to outline their latest position on the creation of a new joint 17-country forum

 comprising current Nato members plus Russia — in Meanwhile, the PFP would which Moscow would have an equal say on issues which do be enhanced to provide some consolation for countries not touch upon territorial which are not accepted as Nato members this time. The group might well con- Ukraine will be offered its Meanwhile, Nato will do its | duct future operations in | own charter, much more |

limited in scope. British and Nato officials believe Moscow is now resigned to expansion and ready to discuss a deal. They point to the ritualistic - but relatively low-key — Russian protests on the subject at last week's European security summit in Lisbon.

Among many private and public signals already sent to offer to re-negotiate the terms of the 1990 Conventional

The 11 countries that have expressed clear interest in Nato membership are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania, Mac-edonia and Albania. Of these, only the first three are cer-tain to be successful. Slove-nia's inclusion would be important in providing territorial continuity.

how Nato enlargement will in-terplay with the eastwards expansion of the European Union. The three Baltic states, for example, are unlikely to be allowed to join the alliance at this stage, but pressure from Germany and the Nordic countries will probably secure them EU membership. Britain's position is that both the EU and Nato "are

not instruments of exclusion but part of a wider framework to enhance the indivisible security of all European Malcolm Rifkind the For-

eign Secretary, said recently:
"We want to proceed with
enlargement of both at a mea-sured pace which will foster stability, prosperity and security, not create new The trick, now as in 1994, is

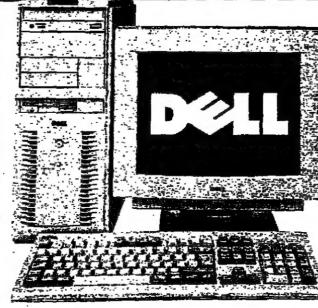
Another key question is Next: the three frontrunners

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Lessons in the conservatory

But Mr Major can't make it stick

IT seemed at times like two chaps having a relaxed Sunday morning chat in an attractive conservatory. One half expected Norma to pop in with a pot of coffee and some digestives, seeing as they were getting on so well. But don't be deceived by the Homes and Gardens appearances. This was political hardball. John Major had to stem a surge of rumour and hysteria in his party over Europe. He had to do it hard, fast and to make it stick. On the basis of his track record, he will probably not have succeeded. Yet, given the pressures, the Prime Minister turned in an Oscar-winning performance in

his On The Record interview yesterday.

It needs to be said with as much clarity as possible that Mr Major was right in what he said yesterday about the single currency. His words had the unmistakeable ring of the truth which comes from experience. Unlike his critics, Mr Major never allows himself to force that a European single currency will have forget that a European single currency will have immense implications for Britain, whatever the terms on which it is finally agreed and whether or not Britain joins it. In the course of his interview, he rehearsed this reality from several different angles. If it is a strong currency and Britain stays out, then sterling will be sucked into its orbit. If it is weak and Britain stays out. then sterling will become overvalued and exports will be hit hard. If it is fudged, then the European Union will be forced to bail out any nations which cannot stand the deflationary pace. If Mr Major taught his listeners any single lesson yesterday it was that there is no hiding from the consequences of the single currency, whatever

Given this truth, and given its wide-ranging implications, Mr Major then went on to reiterate the only possible position on British involvement in the single currency negotiations. It is unquestionably in Britain's interests for the single currency to be the best possible single currency, whether or not Britain joins it. Therefore his job is inescapably to cut deals on it, to threaten and concede with the best of them, in short to take part in the negotiations in order to optimise the outcome. He must even, as he tacitly acknowledged, make good use of the otherwise reviled qualified majority voting procedure when the time comes. To give ourselves a red card at this stage, he said with passionate incredulity. was a denial of all logic. It could not have been clearer that Mr Major intends to stay in these talks until they carry him out. So strong is his negotiator's instinct that he went out of his way not to fire pointless insults at his EU partners. Mr Major was careful to commend and not mock many of the efforts of member states to meet the single currency convergence criteria. He even refused to endorse suggestions that the French, the Italians and the Spaniards are fiddling their way into the single currency, assumptions which are second nature to many of his backbenchers.

of the Europhobic Conservatives who watched the interview yesterday, he would have said none of this. From their point of view, Mr Major's interview was an unmitigated disaster. Not only did he not even make cheap points about foreigners, he also patiently but firmly knocked down every one of the claims which they have been fostering about Mr Major's Intentions. His whole interview was a categoric denial of the idea which started the latest bout of Europhobic activity, that he was ready to announce that Britain would not join the single currency in the next Parliament. But in the course of it he even managed to pull down this weekend's latest kite, the so-called compromise under which Britain would say in advance that it would not join a fudged single currency. If Mr Major is the closet Eurosceptic that the stories of the past week have assumed, then yesterday he went a very funny way

Mr Major was also right about his party. Many of his MPs have behaved extraordinarily disloyally this last week. Yesterday's interview was a confirmation of just about everything that Kenneth Clarke has said on the single currency in the past month. Mr Major said nothing yesterday that he did not confirm at Question Time in the Commons last Tuesday or that he had not said in articles, interviews and speeches over recent months. Yet it is unlikely that either he or Mr Majorwill receive any sort of acknowledgement, let alone any sort of apology, from their accusers. Things are too far gone for that. Mr Major himself will be the first to acknowledge that he has had to give this interview too often in the past two years for there to be any illusions that he will have brought the argument to an end this time. Only eight weeks ago, after a skilful performance at Bournemouth in which he said precisely the things he said yesterday, Mr Major was being widely praised for having unified his party. Who could possibly believe that now? Mr Major did an excellent job yesterday, but it will take only a single spark, perhaps from today's Kohl-Chirac meeting in Nuremberg, to set his tormen-tors off in pursuit of him once again.

Barbed suggestion

Fight for a man's right to choose

NEW Labour's sleepless desire to root out thought crime among dissident party members is well known. But now the party's men in suits have turned their attention to image crime, too. Candidates with beards are being encouraged, none too gently, to shave them off, on the pretent that beards are alleged to lose votes. Alistair Darling, the shadow Treasury chief secretary, is the latest victim. Like us, Mr Darling may have thought he had rather an effective post-Budget fortnight. But no matter. The beard has caused displeasure in the City and New Labour, ever anxious to gratify the whims of the class enemy, has told Mr Darling to get his

There will never be agreement about beards. Some people like and suit them. Others don't. But it has come to something if a man cannot be allowed to choose for himself, without his beard having to be rapidly rebutted by people who are often not old enough to have faced the shaving dilemma for themselves. Anyway, we don't believe this nonsense about the electoral popularity of beards. It doesn't seem to have done Robin Cook or David Blunkett any harm. And does anyone believe that if Sean Connery was ever to stand for Prime Minister. he would lose votes because of his appearance? Get a life, men in suits. Let Mr Darling decide for himself.



Letters to the Editor

Fierce words from the Minister

PETER PRESTON'S stirring polemic about events in Belgrade (Commentary, December 6) contained some good points and made a fine read. All the more pity, therefore, that he got some impor-

tant facts wrong.
The sense of Preston's article is that, in contrast to the US Government, "Mal-colm Rifkind and his twisting FO minions" have done nothing in response to the Serblan Socialist Party's manipulation of the municipal elec-tions. The reality is the oppo-site. There have been both EU (November 22, December 2 and 4) and British statements (December 2 and 5) about events in Serbia.

The British ambassador, Ivor Roberts, has spoken twice directly to President Milosevic to set out our con-cerns in the clearest possible terms. Malcolm Rifkind did the same with the FRY For-eign Minister, Milan Milutinovic. And Ivor Roberts was the first ambassador to call on Radio B92, as a gesture of solidarity, immediately after their closure. In a press con-ference to mark their re-opening. B92 actually singled out the British Government's

efforts in their support. reover, the EU. UK in the vanguard, decided at the EU General Affairs Council on November 25 to cessions to the FRY until the municipal elections Issue was resolved. Our actions go well beyond the "fierce words" by which Preston sets such

Baroness Lynda Chalker. Minister for Overseas Development Administration 94 Victoria Street,

Wise folly

THE information-challenged students of Birk-beck College (Leader, December 6) surely have no cause for regret. At a single stroke they have received two of the most coveted accolades of modern society — an appearance on society — an appearance on telly, and a guaranteed place in the Guiness Book of Re-cords. Where ignorance is bliss, tis folly to be wise! Bob Heys.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full

They're deaf to our plight The Hillsborough disaster, from one who was also there

N December 6, 1972, as a 20-year-old subaltern in the Queens Lancashire Regiment on patrol in the Lower Falls area of Belfast, I was caught in a terrorist explored of the patrol. lst ambush (Is this what he died for? December 6). Our Saracen armoured vehicle was "brewed up" by an RPG 7
— a rocket-propelled grenade
designed to knock out a tank. The effect this projectile had on a "soft-skinned" personnel carrier and its human cargo was everything — and more — its designers could have hoped for. Then the shooting started.

Some of us lost our careers

— and limbs, eyes and hearing. I still suffer from constant tinnitus and regular discharges from both ears. I am totally deaf in my right ear and nearly 90 per cent deaf in

my left.
To all you Conservatives out there, can you justify your Government's decision to re-fuse me and other deaf veterans any further increase in

taht the government budget for a housing programme at the top end of the govern-ment's own range of esti-

mated need for social hous-ing: 60,000 to 100,000 homeless

ing: 60,000 to 100,000 homeless per year (Budget fails to boost Tories, December 3). In May 1996, David Curry, the Hous-ing Minister, said 60,000 was the government's aim. Yet the Budget slashed the programme for housing

associations through the

year. The Housing Corpora-tion's cash is cut by nearly \$400m next year and, on top of

that, local authority housing cash will be down by \$275m so, adding together pro-grammes funded through

ocal authorities to those

Mr Gummer drops a brick

Housing Corporation and will targets? If Mr Corry knows only provide 20,000 starts next year. The Housing Corporation's cash is cut by nearly share it with us. Is this a gov-

funded by the Housing Corpo-ration, there will only be London SCIX SUP.

— never again. Sandy Macdonald. 9 Crown Gardens,

Edgworth, Bolton BL7.

WAS refused a pension but awarded a War Pensioners Certificate which entitled me to prescriptions for hearing aids, batteries etc but, in the last year or so, the War Pen-sions Agency has refused to pay for these items on the grounds that they should be supplied by the NES.

F Render.
2 Culross Close,

Cheltenham GL50 4NF.

ANY ex-servicemen will agree with Tony Blair when he said that the Tories had been "shabby and meanminded" in their treatment of ex-servicemen, but this is Amberd Farml nothing new. On the very day Amberd Lane, that John Major was reelected leader of the Tory

incredibly, the day before the Budget Environment Sec-retary, John Gummer, pro-duced evidence of demand for

an extra 4.4m homes by the year 2016. By all reasonable

year 2016. By all reasonable estimates, about 1.5m of these households will be low paid or unwaged. Mr Gummer said it would be "reprehensible" to wish away expected demand and we agree.

Why is the Government

failing to invest in its own

ernment strategic with-

drawal from social housing?

JE Coulter.

National

Chief.Executive

N December 6, 1972, as our disability pensions should party, the Tories falled to sup-a 20-year-old subaltern our hearing deteriorate? I port a Bill introduced by in the Queens Lanca- have voted Tory for 26 years Simon Hughes MP which would have corrected a major injustice suffered by some service widows of post-retirement marriages, who get no service pension whatsoever when their husbands die.

Servicemen retire much earlier than the majority of civilians and are therefore more vilians and are therefore more likely to marry or re-marry after retirement. As a safeguard there was a requirement in the Bill that the marriage took place before the 65th birthday and lasted for a minimum of three years. Many ex-servicemen suffer disability as a result of their service and their wives frequently have to nurse them.

We are shabby and mean-We are shabby and mean minded if remembrance stops on the 11th of November. (Major) James Nicholl (retd). Amberd Farmhouse,

Somerset TA3 7AA.

You name it 🧀

ther than the works of J B Morton, alias Beachcomber. His canon includes such establishment figures as Dowager Lady Garment, Sir Henry Fer-rett MP, Colonel Cruddock-Mildew and Mr Justice Cockle carrot. From the literary world are Captain Foulenough and Dr Smart-Allick and, on the colonial front, Big White Car-stairs and the M'Babwa of Party Environment Select from this housing M'Conkawiwi.

Jack Critchlow.

> ECK is not slang or a swear word (Diary, December 6). A direct translation from Irish "see", but a "feck" was used in the game of Throw Half-penny. It was a small T-chaped piece of wood that the half-penny rested on before being thrown down the "boreen" (a cart track in Irish). Mary Kelly. 5 Mentone Avenue, Aspley Guise, Beds.

Torquey TQ2 6LX.

DOUBLE standards (Letters, December 6)? Surely an ac-knowledged mistake by me in the 1992 election in Oxford West is no reason for Tarry Marsh to repeat it in Basildon

in 1997? 6 Cynthia Street, London N1 9.JF.

THE otherwise excellent
Hillsborough drama joined
every other programme or
article on the subject in ignoribrox 1971, Bradford 1965? every other programme or article on the subject in ignor-ing the 25,000 Nottingham Forest fans at the game (Hills-borough: back to the nightmare, December 2).

forest fans were only men-tioned when considering we should have been in Leppings Lane because we had fewer fans. As one of the Forest fans packed tight on the opposite terrace, this showed an utter lack of sensitivity given that we could so easily have taken the place of the 96 bodies we had to watch for 90 minutes. Given the fact that we were told nothing (I didn't know anyone had died until I left the ground at 4.50); that Liverpool fans charged at us (apparently having heard that Forest fans had infiltrated the Liverpool end); and that Kenny Dalglish in his recent auto-biography specifically com-mends the Forest fans for their patient and tolerant reaction. I'd have thought we deserved a better role.

DJ TAYLOR'S search for excluded and ignored from the grieving process and after-shock of that awful day. excluded and ignored from their precursors? Are we just 225 Cromwell Road. Whitstable. Kent CT5 1LA.

Why has the UK been the scene of so many smaller incidents involving multiple inju-ries or fatalities? The record of other footballing nations is so different — no similar inci-dents in Spain, Italy or Germany. The immediate causes of

the Hillsborough tragedy may have been mistakes made on the day, but who was responsible for designing, building and maintaining the stadium? Who failed to ensure that spectators were counted into each enclosure as recommended by previous reports? Who was responsible for set-ting standards and ensuring that clubs abided by them? My concern with the Hillsborough drama was that it sought to scapegoat an agency — the police — and, largely, one individual. So long as we accept simple explanations which allow us to focus the blame on one group, we lose We too went to a football the opportunity to learn from tratch and saw 96 people die. Yet we have endlessly been ters are an exact replica of waiting for the next one? Dominic Elliott. De Montfort University,

The Gateway.

Leicester LE1 9BH.

A Country Diary

OLD WESTMORELAND: At | shakeholes deeply covered in tempts, during the recent snows, to reach Mallerstang, Swaledale or Middleton-in-Teesdale having been thwarted by deep drifts or ice, we were left with an ascent of Wild Boar Fell from the west — its least interesting side. Much more rewarding are ascents from Aisgill summit where the railway reaches its maximum elevation in England, over Swarth Fell to the south or, best of all, from the fell road three miles to the north. From the west I often go up through either Skennerskeugh or Fell End Clouds but these interesting limestone formations — usually visible from miles way - were, because of the snow, completely undistin-guishable from the rest of the fell. A dozen fell ponies, driven down from the heights by the snow, were grazing near the road and seemed grateful for handfuls of grass torn from hedge bottoms. The ascent up tilted bogland and

new powder snow was rather tedious. Knee-deep powder is through and, now and again, we sank through the frozen bog into the water below - a variation on the frustrating snow cover known to skiers as "breakable crust". Sand Tarn below the summit, frozen across and snow-covered, was virtually invisible: hereabouts, millstones used to be quarried and, no doubt, scythes sharpened on the lumps of millstone grit. Nothing moved on the vast plateau where; it is said, the last wild boar in England was slain and we saw no prints in the snow. Christmas card pictures could be enjoyed in every direction but my photograph of the year is of sunshine gleaming through a hole in the clouds on to a high combe on snowplastered Great Dummacks, soaring in the sky like a Himalayan peak

A HARRY GRIFFIN

Smile, you're on candidates' camera

Housing

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

O doubt I am blased about last Wednes-day's Newsnight. For the three participants in the main debate have all been friends for more than 20 years. But even allowing for my natural bias. I have no doubt that their discussion included one of those rare electrifying television moments when the most superficial branch of an increasingly trivial media suddenly, and surprisingly, reveals a fundamen-tal truth. The topic was the Parliamentary Labour Party's new disciplinary code and Tony Howard was gently teasing Donald Dewar about the MPs' obligation not to behave in a way which "brings the party into disrepute". The phrase reminded ex-Pusilier Howard of the Queen's Regulations catch-all — "conduct which is not conducive to

I was waiting for him to ask if disruptive young Members live in a time in which allegwould be forced to pay barrack room damages when rack room damages when Peter Snow decided that the time had come to drag an al-most silent Susan Crosland into the discussion. How, he asked, did she believe that her late husband would have res-ponded to the new and techni-cally more rigid rules of discipline? There was a perceptible pause, a second of real silence, before Mrs Crosland replied. Then she delivered her judg-ment ex-cathedra and in a tone which itself dismiss the hypothesis as too improbable to be worth pursuing. Tony Crosland would not have been interested in being a Member of Parliament at a time when political ideas had gone out of fashion and sound-bites took the place of careful argument.

The image which came immediately to mind was the karate chop — swift, deadly and therefore absolutely conchusive. The blow was not struck against Howard and Dewar — rationality confront-ing reason — but against the on the views of suburban struck against Howard and

specials about Yony Right's teeth and the important political debate goes on inside what are called "focus groups" — cosy gatherings in suburban sitting rooms at which men and women express their immediate and Ill-considered views on washing powder, soft drinks, confectionery and the acceptable size of the public sector borrowing requirement. By their nature they are only capable of giving the crudest of answers to the simplest of questions and their views are so volatile that preferences change from day to day. The idea that politicians might be guided — even gov-erned — by their deliberations demeans that democratic

Yet we are, and I admit we have been for some time. In the days when it was my duty to listen to the views of something called the Shadow Com-

significance) but three of them significance) but three of them sitting in a "lounge" somewhere in the Midlands. As I recall, they preferred Tony Blair and Bryan Gould to Gerald Kaufman and John Prescott. John has since become cott. John has since become the housewives' choice. I do not know if their views on great political issues have changed. They were never asked about that sort of thing. I am not in the least surprised that a gaggle of forms groups made idiots of them-selves in Scotland a couple of months ago by "discovering" that Tony Blair was highly un-

housewives — not suburban housewives in general (which might have had some political

popular north of the border. During the Newsnight broadcast in which Susan Crosland delivered her com de grace, the admirable Brian Wilson (Labour's campaign co-ordinator) described in his usual lucid fashion why their "con-clusion" was self-evident tripe. I trust that he went back to Millbank Tower and insisted that the Labour Party stop wasting its members' money on fashionable nonsense. If they are wrong about the nation's opinion of the party leader, why should we believe them to be right about the national attitude towards

tion, with all such contriv-ances, is to accept what they

say when its suits our conve-nience and reject their find-ings when it conflicts with our prejudices. An example of that pathetic partiality was exhibited by Ken Livingstone on the same — and uniquely informative — Newsnight programme. He was quite pre-pared to believe what the focus groups said about his party leader. Indeed, he party leader. Indeed, ne seemed to take pleasure in their phoney revelation. I doubt if he would have en-dorsed their views on Brit-ain's "independent" nuclear capability or immigration control. It shows the level to which the political debate has descended when even representatives of the unregener ated left abandon ideas and, instead, take refuge in surveys about the way in which politi-cians smile.

So, sitting at home, I gave three cheers for Susan Crosland when she dismissed in a single haughty sentence the way that politicians live now. But I did have one reservation about what she said. It is, I know, an intolerable impertinence to contradict her view. nence to contradict her view on how her husband would have behaved. And we should not guess how dead heroes would respond to situations which, in their lifetime, they could not have contemplated. However — all that being said — I doubt if Tony Crosland would have given up the struggle. He would have tried to fill the intellectual vacuum. And, if he had failed, he would have consoled himself with the lowest common denominator. A government which abolishes the assisted places scheme and uses the money to reduce class sizes is better than one which does not. A party which promises to transfer health service funds from administration to patient care is worth voting and working for. It is also worth thinking about Let us hope that ideas come back into fashion one day.

Cotabato Diary

Owen Bowcott

UR driver had gone Ok ariver nad gone missing. Every passing jeepney—the traditional chrome and rainbow-coloured, horn-biaring Philippine bus — was crammed full of Muslim second cessionists heading home after a protest rally.

Delegates clung to vehi-cle roofs. Open-top trucks, ed to ferry workers out to the coconut groves, lum-bered by laden down with the departing faithful. Not a taxi was in sight. With half-an-hour to

ver 10 miles, there was no choice if we were to reach the governor's office. We would have to take a slow

motor-tricycle. Traffic delays are more often a curse of the Philip-pines' capital than the provinces. In metro Manila, drivers regularly leave at dawn, crawl for hours along the jammed EDSA ringway and still manage to

miss appointments.
Last week the country's president, Fidel Ramos, ar-rived half-an-hour late at an awards ceremony when his cavalcade was gridlocked. Police outriders stopped oncoming cars to clear a passage. Traffic congestion, the smiling presi-dent reassured his waiting ests, was a welcome sign of "economic progress" and proof that the country was becoming the newest Asian

But on the southern island of Mindanao, hold-ups of local businessmen in the predominantly Muslim districts around Cotabato City are likely to mean something quite different — being taken hostage at

gun point. Our immediate task was less daunting. We flagged down a tricycle and per-suaded the driver to speed on to the meeting in the next town, Sultan Cadaret. One in the back and one in the front, to balance the straining three-wheeler, we set off. Two minutes into the bumpy ride, the driver

was too far to go. A second tricycle owner His Kawasaki-powered ve hicle bounded off, crossing the rusty, box-girder bridge over the Rio Grande De Mindanao at a fair pace.

One hundred metres on, the noxious smell of burning rubber permeated the humid air and we slowed to a silent stop. "I'll sort it out," the anxious driver promised.

Pulling out an oily spark plug held together by matchsticks and an elastic band, he wiped it clean, replaced it, and stamped repeatedly on the pedal. The machine coughed, but wouldn't restart. Two schoolchildren carrying satchels wandered over, intrigued. One held a menac-

ing blue water-pistol. Most of the kidnappings are of local Chinese traders," Barbara Fortunato, a Filipino working for the British charity, Voluntary Service Overseas, had explained to us earlier.

Some ransom demands are from bandits, some by those in the so-called "lost commands" — Muslim fighters who were formerly members of the Moro National Liberation Front.

get much money, they may release you for a token sum," she added, "and claim it's simply to cover board and lodging. That happens with the priests, they know the Church

won't pay."
The VSO is currently considering placing volunteers in western Mindanao to help with the peace negoti-ated earlier this year between the MNLS and the Philippines government. The US Peace Corps has pulled out of the area.

A third, willing tricycle eventually appeared. Its wing mirrors were shat-tered and its driver kept his face fixed in a rigid stare ahead. We were waved on at an army checkpoint, we motored on past flooded paddy fields. Every other car and lorry on the road overtook us.

Carabao, a horned species of water buffalo. grazed at the roadside. Each cluster of thatched houses amid the palm trees had its small mosque and basketball yard — American influences mingling with the region's Islamic

inheritance. Nailed to the base of a tree in a field littered with rubbish — resembling the aftermath of a rock concert — was the siogan: "Quoran is our Constitution."

The previous day, a rally have attracted over one million local Muslims de termined to secede from Manila and establish an independent Muslim state in the west of Mindanao. The last stalls which had sold fresh mangoes were belat-

edly packing up. At the provincial governor's compound in Sultan Kadaret, his assistant laughed off our delay. By the time the driver rejoined us, the mullah's evening prayers were being broad-cast over the rooftops of

Is it a choice — get a life or keep a job?

Commentary

Linda Grant

EXT week, Central television viewers in the Midlands can watch an interview in which the Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, expresses her regrets that she never married or had children and her envy of those who did. She lives in grandeur on £103,000 a year in the Speaker's House at Westminster, alone, Goes for a solitary morning walk, alone. Eats lunch alone, looking down at the members on the terrace "taking out their lunchtime trays, gossiping and enjoying themselves". Her house, which is very large, seems larger still and much emptier. She notices even more as she gets older, she says, that she has no family of her own around her. On Friday nights she leaves Lon-

don to spend the evening with

her constituents at her sur-

gery in West Bromwich. Her

weekends, we must assume, are an empty blank.

It is an utterly bleak por- earned a quarter of a million trait of the private life of one | pounds a year as president of of Britain's most respected and well-loved female politiclans, who has shown that it is possible to dominate the boys at Westminster without Mrs Thatcher's autocratic egotism or her humour by-pass. Yet Betty Boothroyd be-lieves that had she married and had children it would have been "very difficult" for her to have become Speaker. "It's not easy for women to do both things," she says. This cold and dispiriting message is being sent out to the gen-erations of women who might think they can follow her. Confronted by two ways to live your life, family and career, it seems that feminism was a con, we can't have it all, that we must choose and that the personal and the political are separate water-tight compartments — at least

When a male politician resigns to spend to more time with his family, one assumes the whips have got rid of him in the nick of time before a bucket of flith is poured over his head. If a woman leaves for the same reason, she is branded a failure who can't take the pressure and, to triumphalist misogynists, living proof that girls never belonged in the club in the

potentially rewarding, like running the country. They were free of cloying photo opportunities designed to promote the beterosexual nuclear family as the only acceptable construction of human relationships.

The part Parliament, what-The next Parliament, what-ever the government, will have a vastly increased num-

ber of women MPs as the leg-acy of Labour's short-lived all-women shortlists and it is women shortlists and it is hoped that the sheer weight of their presence in the Com-mons will begin to exode the aspects of political life which Coca-Cola UK, resigned to start a family a couple of years ago, the Daily Mail led make it so inimical to moth-erhood. Younger women poli-ticians like Harriet Harman and the rising Labour star Barbara Roche are managing to bring up families while preparing for government

But as one female MP told me, they succeed only be-cause they benefit from a gen-

Once in a blue moon a man really does look at his desk and at the picture of his kid-dies in the silver frame on top A new lease of of it and thinks: "What the hell, I'd rather be at the school gates admiring James's finger-painting than listening to a bunch of Trea-sury officials telling me what boyish life granted to them at 50 with the new baby by I can't spend my department's money on." How will he be remembered? As that politithe Model III wife

eration of men who want to take more part in the up-bringing of their children. Could a female Tory MP with traditionalist Tory male for a husband survive long in Westminster? The increasingly hysterical Tory rhetoric about the family would preclude her even being selected. Fortunately, as women have moved into senior posi-tions in the workforce men have simultaneously made tentative moves towards a greater involvement in the irst place. engage with things that many domestic sphere, but there When Penny Hughes, who of us found interesting and are unforeseen consequences

ostentatiously narrate the events of their weekends, taking the kids swimming, play ing football. "The most impor-tant people in my life are my children," the divorced men would announce, to demonstrate what caring guys they were. Some could proudly boast of two or even three set of families started and abandoned, a new lease of boyish life granted to them at 50 with the birth of the new baby by

The women looked sourly on. They knew that if they had had children they would had had children they would be sharpening their short-hand pencils now, instead of preparing briefing papers for a meeting.

It was incredibly galling to have been part of the first feminist generation of women to insist on being treated like

equals in the workplace, fighting tooth and nail against the inevitable inter-view question ("Why should we train you when you'll just leave to get married and start a family?"), then find them-selves patronised by their male colleagues for being, as I once overheard a man remark of his boss: "You know the type, one of those hard-bitten, expensively dressed, unfulfilled career women who don't have chil-dren and don't have a life. Bit

There is an important lesyou are female, single and value your reputation at work, don't spend too much on clothes and never get a cot.

of what ought to be a welcome development. For you cannot expect men to annexe new territory for themselves without stamping it with their unique brand of athletic superiority. I used to work in an office where all the men above the where all the men above the clerical grades had children and none of the women did. On Mondays, the men would



Ros Coward

AVE you thought about what it will be like shopping with it? Arranging a mortgage with it? Probably not Because although monetary union is hot enough to deraff a government it causes instant slavment, it causes instant glaz-ing-over of eyes among those who will actually spend the money. Leading politicians of all parties seem relieved by this, since they want us to be rational folk who agree to the general principle of political

But we will have to think about it soon. Decisions will have to be taken in early 1998 have to be taken in early 1990 if the UK wants to keep open the option of joining the single currency. After that, the timetable shows that the Ruro is only two years away. It will appear as legal tender and a unit of accountancy alongside sterling in January 1999 and replace sterling entirely in January 2002.

union.

So it is high time the wom-an on Clapham High Street started asking what the Isuro in her pocket will feel like.

For three years we will have two currencles — sterling will continue to exist as a unit of exchange while most fiscal institutions will use the Euro as a unit of accountancy. Insurance quotes will be in Euros, while shopping be in Euros, while shopping with the pound will still be common. We'll pay a mort-gage from a British or Bavar-ian bank in Euro currency

while buying a pint of milk for 40p. allow time to adapt, but this transition will be so painful it will take the gloss off the millennium celebrations. The Euro will not have the same coins as sterling, as in the transition to decimal currency where a range of coins stayed the same (one shilling equalled 5p; two shillings, £1.321 and unless your mental arithmetic is up to A-level standard I shouldn't even start to work out how many

Euros 25p is worth.
It's a fair bet the majority will use sterling until the very last moment. Metrification of measurements was introduced over a decade ago and has only just hit the

continue to ignore it.

will be the device of the famous statue, the Mannekin Pis, which appears on the chocolate Ecus you can buy in Brussels. This typical piece of Belgian humour shows that the single currency is feared by citizens even at the heart

of Europe. Eurocitisens share a basic anxiety; what will happen to prices? All vending machines and slot machines will have and slot machines will have to be changed. Will they charge half-a-Euro for what used to be a 50p go? Or a whole Euro for what used to cost a pound? This is a micro example of what could be happening at a macro level. Will business round fractions up or down? Clearly there are large amounts of money to be won and lost in this transi-tion. Consumers are likely to feel they are doing most of the losing.

quences will emerge when the currency. We will have to arrive at a new "psychology" of pricing. Currently, 99p for roll of Christmas paper sounds like good value. Will 1.13 of a Euro have the same feel? Anyone who shops carries enough a complicated set ries around a complicated set of rough prices in their head: for example, how much a tub of margarine should cost. The simple transition from two shillings to 10p disrupted this subjective sense of prices enough. The arbitrary arithmetic of the Euro will shatter

it completely. Money has a psychological reality for the people who still use it in want to feel safe with their assessment of how much things should cost and how much they have got. Politicians are far removed from this. Try asking them the price of milk when they come

lin this week is due to give the member states more information about how monetary union and the Euro will work. Up until now we have had to make do with a EU pamphlet: "What is the Euro?" This is a mind-boggling absence of information about something which has such huge implications for our lives. When the reality of this change sinks in, people 10p). Two wholly different sets of currency will coexist with no simple arithmetical relation to one another. Curther the Ruro, assessed by liberal anxiety about being by liberal anxiety about being Unlike the political elite,

who are divorced from the everyday reality of money, citizens have every reason to feel anxious about the trans-fer and need to know more to assess the real costs and bene fits of such a change. It seems ironic that there is so little democratic participation in a process which is promoted as good for our political citizen-ship by linking us more closely with the European Union. I want to be part of the Euro will look like. Will Union. I want to be part of the coins carry a well-known Europe, but not as an ill-European symbol? Perhaps it informed pawn.

Follow thy leader

pounds a year as president of

its story with the headline: "Coca-Cola boss says mother-

hood is the real thing." A vast

sight of relief went up from those who thought women be-

longed at home and a howl of fury from those who regarded

cal rarity, what the general public think of as a proper,

fully-formed human being. With the exception of Mrs

Thatcher, who conveniently married a millionaire and

had her two children in one

go, most of the women MPs we admired when we were

growing up were childless — like Barbara Castle or Marga-

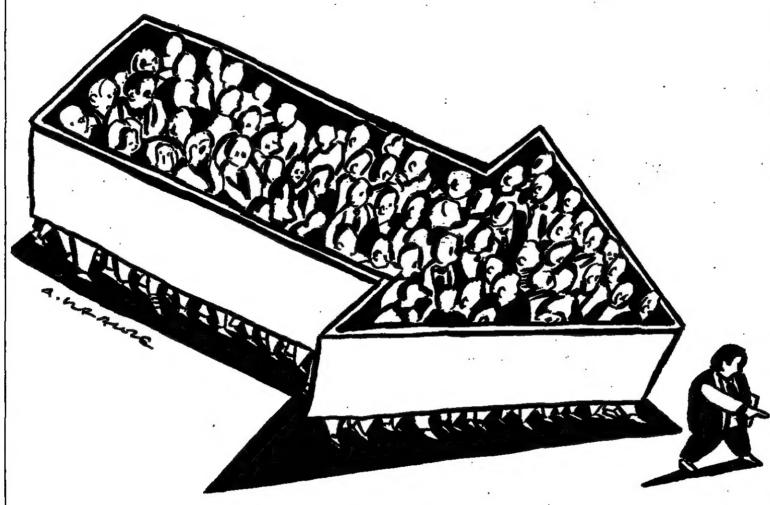
ret Beckett. There seemed

and, in Castle's case, to her

elegance.
Their minds were free to

then a glamour to their power

her as a traitor to her sex.



Why do those Labour MPs soon to be elected want to be in Parliament? To help their constituents and not themselves to a better life, hopes Gerald Kaufman

new Labour MP will be elected in the Barnsley East by-election. With-in five months, he will be joined at Westminster by a regiment of Labour rookies. Following reports of last week's Parliamentary Labour week's rariamentary Labour Party (PLP) debate on the new Code of Conduct, they may be asking themselves whether there is any point in being an MP at all: whether they are destined to be political prisoners, bound hand and foot by discipline which will turn them into pawns of their leadership. They should ask themselves quite a different question instead; for what reason, exactly, are they go-ing into Parliament?

The answer is quite simple. They will become MPs to represent their constituents, to implement Labour's election manifesto, to sustain a abour government. And that s precisely is what the overwhelming majority will do. A small number, however, may have --- or acquire, when they get to Westminster - a differ

ent agenda.

Parliament is a peculiar place. Once an MP enters it in the morning, he or she is enveloped in a cocoon. The outside world becomes remote, it is even quite hard to be sure what the weather is like. What goes on inside the cocoon — in its lobbies, its corridors, its tea-room — can dominate MPs' concerns and actions. Outside, the real world goes on its way, plac-idly or sometimes tormentedly. Inside, motions are ped-dled, gossip is exchanged and

ronment. Their senses of reality and commitment prevail. But for a tiny minority, the artificial environment becomes the only life they have. Such MPs, who have agen-Such MPs, who have agendas very different from those of their colleagues, will share their thoughts with journalists from the Tory press they claim to scorn. For brief moments, they will break out of their closed environment to line up on Palace Green, where they will offer soundbites to the television cameras, which they seek out like eras, which they seek out like flies alighting on excrement. cameras pay attention to these unrepresentative MPs who are willing — no, eager — to criticise their own lead-

ers. (From the journalists' time abandoned his sup-point of view, the attention is for Labour governments. quite justified). One of these MPs, who made no effort to take part in last week's PLP debate, could not wait to offer his views not only to the cam-eras of terrestrial TV but also to the cameras of Rupert Murdoch's satellite TV, although he no doubt professes to loathe Murdoch

Loyalty is not news; and, among this small minority of Labour MPs, loyalty is not even understood. In that debate last week, I said some-

songs contains more wisdom than the entire output of these disruptive MPs.
Sondheim wrote: "Good friends like and advise, Whereas old friends love and forgive. And old friends...let you off when you're wrong — if you're wrong — When you're wrong."

My view was immediately distorted; it was claimed that I was demanding that I above I was demanding that Labour MPs should be lickspittles, toeing the party line, what-ever it is. That was not the eras, which they seek out like approach of a truly great MP like Michael Foot, who as a backbencher quite rightly saw it as his duty to disagree with a Labour government over such fundamental issues as Vietnam, but never at any time abandoned his support sustain the Labour govern-ment in office. What Michael Foot the backbencher did not do was snipe at his leadership to gain momentary glory in a soundbite that could be ex-

wented Labour in power. Some of today's soundbite MPs, in their heart of hearts (if thing that I regarded as such an organ can be located), simple and salf-evident. Loy-do not particularly care alty to the leadership is easy whether Labour is in power

Most Labour MPs can take | Friends, by Stephen Sond | the interstices of disruptive or leave this artificial envi- | helm, any stanza of whose | activities — have to vote with it at any rate some of the time. As for a Tory opposition, there is no mileage in criticising that. When you are in opposition, the Tory gov-ernment is there to attack like a wide-open goal; and the shadow cabinet is fair game, too.
The lifestyles of disruptive

MPs are totally unaffected by whether Labour is in opposition or government. The sal-ary is comfortable (and they may even believe the Tory propaganda, which they do so much to holster, which claims they are likely to be taxed more under Labour). The perks are not to be de And the publicity is heady. But the lifestyles of all our constituents are affected radically, sometimes fundamentally, by which party is in As Leader of the House be did more than anyone else to sustain the Labour govern turned away from a benefits office because she had not brought in her book the day before; she had not been able to do so because a strike had closed the office. She there-fore had no money with which to feed her two chil-

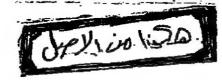
dren and had to go out on the streets begging.
That degradation was inflicted on her not only by the Tory government, but by those Labour MPs whose disruptiveness in the mid-to-late simple and self-evident. Loyalty to the leadership is easy when the leadership is right and is popular. Loyalty to the leadership really counts when the leaders are wrong and unpopular and supporting them is hard. I may have had at the back of my mind the musical number Old do not particularly care ruptiveness in the mid-to-lete whether Labour is in power ruptiveness in the mid-to-lete ruptiveness in

ernment; even though, if we could return to the benefit levels, housebuilding pro-gramme, health service and ducational provision, local authority grants and overseas development budget provided by that government, we would feel we were living in paradise. Such MPs stridently claim their rights when thou-sands of my constituents have

ment because many of my constituents cannot go on living without one. I am ready to swal-low an awful lot of my own personal views to obtain and ustain such a government. I believe that my right to get something off my chest is less important than the right of my constituent to feed her children. In the end, I am a Labour MP not to express my own individuality (though, like any human being, I value doing that) but to better the lot of the people.

One of my predecessors as MP for Gorton, Konni Zilliacus, had no particular dispo-sition to admire the Labour leadership; as MP for Gates-head in the late 1940s he had, under a disciplinary code far more rigorous than that debated by the PLP last week, been expelled from the party. Yet he uttered a great political truth, which should be printed on every Labour Party membership card: "The. worst possible Labour gov-ernment is better than the best conceivable Conservative government."





Touchdown on television

stay up all night to watch American Foot-ball's Super Bowl, and they do, it is down to Pete Rozelle who has died of cancer aged 70. If American sport has a global impact and has come to dominate American culture to the extent that it does it is because Rozelle was the first man to under-stand that sport was enter-tainment and that television was going to be the most im-portant tool for building an entertainment audience for the rest of this century.

That was not as obvious in 1960 when Rozelle became mmissioner of the National Football League as it is now. In those days the NFL was very much the second sport in America. Baseball was the national pastime. Profes-sional gridiron was like Rugby League, a sport associ-ated with hard scrabble cities. It was run like a private association by men who loved the game, many of whom had owned teams since the Depression. American sports owners tend to be self-made entrepreneurs. They are all ego with none of the disciline that comes from rising through corporate structures. When their long standing commissioner died they went through a huge list of candi-dates to replace him, before compromising on Rozelle, a

33-vear-old marketing man. Rozelle was able to convince the egos in charge that collec-



stration of this was over tele-vision rights. Each team sold the rights to televise their games locally. Those in the big markets, like New York, got more for their rights than those in smaller cities. Rozelle convinced the owners that they should sell their rights as a group. Then he had to con-vince Congress that the NFL negotiating as a single entity did not violate anti-trust laws. Congress legislated in his favour and the NFL signed a contract with CBS. The network paid \$4.46 million to televise 98 games.
Some owners were con-

corned that televising their games, in essence giving them away for free, would affect ticket sales adversely. It had just the opposite effect. Rozelle knew that TV was a shop window for the product. Professional gridiron became so popular and lucrative that soon a rival league was formed, the American Foot-

by a network contract, from CBS's arch-rival NBC. Grid-CBS arctifivat MBC. Criticism on entered an era that is similar to what both codes of rugby are going through now.

The competition between the NFL and the AFL was one of the little skirmishes of the culture wars of the 1960s in America. Both leagues had their partisans. The AFL played a more wide-open entertaining game, the NFL represented traditional John Wayne virtues: simple, brut-ish violence. Owners in the senior circuit, the NFL, were inclined to crunch the upstarts. Rozelle had a better idea. Merge the two leagues, but first have the champions of such leagues, and such as the complex control of such leagues. of each league play each other at the end of the season. College gridiron had long had these end of season confronta-tions. They were called bowl games since the trophy usually was shaped like a bowl. Rozelle, a marketing man to the core, decided to call his the Super Bowl. The first two were won by the Green Bay Packers, an original NFL fran-chise. The third was won improbably by an AFL team, the New York Jets, led by a 1960s Icon, Joe Namath. The rivalry

traordinary growth. The Super Bowl became the dominant sports event in America. Nine out of the top 10 rated shows of all time are owners to share revenue Super Bowls. More than a billion people around the world watch it. Rozelle de-cided to rope the third Amerimeant that for a period of time they were almost guar-

galvanised American football

which began a period of ex-



televise games on Monday night effectively ending conjugal relations in the country at the beginning of the week. equally. This socialism with a human face - for these most

anteed profitability before selling a single ticket. The problem came when the players demanded their share. Rozelle led the league through three players' strikes. Pete Rozelle defined the

way the sports business should be run. Those sports like basketball that follow the Rozelle blueprint — collective action by owners, use television to sell your product—
grow and prosper. Those that is what it's all about," he said.

Rozelle was born in Los Angeles, and dubbed "Pete" by an uncle. He briefly served in the US Navy, took a series of sports public relations jobs and was general manager of the Los Angeles Rams before the NFL post. He retired as NFL commissioner in 1989. He always said that his great-

"I really felt a high at every Super Bowl with all the glitz." But Rozelle's greatest achievement was demonstrated when the most recent television contract between the NFL and TV networks was up for negotiation three years ago. Rupert Murdoch, anxious for a flagship programme to secure viewers for his new Fox network outbid CBS for rights to NFC games.

From that first contract of \$4.46 million to \$1.5 billion in a little more than 30 years, in American terms, is a legacy to be remembered by. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two grand-children.

administrator, born March

Kenneth Watkins

Heart of the woodlands

the Trust grow from an acorn | the colleague weary from into a giant oak, from a single woodland, bought in 1972, to owns and protects some 800 woods, including 6,000 acres of ancient woodland. The Trust has spent £16 million on purchasing woods across Great Britain, and in the last 10 years alone has planted more

Heather Swift

shire local election duel

when Labour and the Liberals

squared up for the politically resonant ward of Colne Val-ley, near Huddersfield, after

the abolition of the West Rid-

The stamping ground of an-

clent heroes such as Philip Snowden, Victor Grayson and

James Kitson went luminous

with rival red and yellow posters, as Swift, for the Lib-

erals, fought for a place on the new West Yorkshire council

with the equally-respected Labour veteran, Alderman

ing county council in 1974.

ENNETH Watkins, who has died at the age of 36, will be remembered with gratitude by countryside devotees as the man who founded the Woodland Trust. He saw for the friend out of luck or for the friend out of luck or the college was a benevolent despot, a tough and single-minded decision taker but at the same time full of kindness and compassion for the friend out of luck or the college was a benevolent despot, a tough and single-minded decision taker but at the same time full of kindness and compassion for the friend out of luck or the friend out of luck or the first of t

overwork. He was born in Bromley, chant Taylors' School, but in the 1920s, following doctor's advice, he moved to the cleaner air of Exmoor where he became a farm pupil. Later

Methodism, parent-teacher work and other voluntary causes, Swift finally slipped

Her subsequent record of

fighting 13 elections and win-ning them all showed no sign

of ending, even when she suf-fered a minor stroke last Oc-

Luke's hospital, Huddersfield,

with instructions to stay put. As deputy mayor of Kirklees she had papers sent to the

has died aged 78, local regret, shared by activists on both sides, that the celebrated York-ocal election duel, shared. Embedded in local

with the equally-respected ward, where she handwrote replies for typing-up at Huddersfield town hall. She died after collapsing at the

in by 78 votes.

he moved again, to south of the Devon Naturalists' Devon where he farmed with Trust, which began in the

Victor of Liberal battles



Trust founder . . . Watkins

ness which grew into the chinery, providing funds for much of the conservation work. Long before the Woodland Trust came into being. Ken became the driving force of the Devon Naturalists' than a million trees.

For 21 years Ken Watkins

Together they began an period, too, that he achieved ensured, from the chair, that agricultural engineering busi
some success as a film-maker

Kenneth Watkins, woodland or servationist, born December 13, 1996

"comer-in" in the closely-knit Pennine communities of

Linthwaite, Slaithwaite and

Marsden. She had been climb-

ing the career ladder vigor

ously in a London bank when she met a West Riding sol-dier, Willie Swift, during the

war, married him, and moved

When she decided to try for

the local urban district council, she met the inevitable doorstep query: "Who are you, then?," with the answer:

"My husband's Willie Swift, in the choir." It was enough,

she said, to compensate for her "foreign" status.

She was associated with almost every good cause in the Colne Valley, including 10

ral History film awards in

hard-hearted of capitalists -

Trust's acquisitions pro-gramme. He would go any-where to secure a contract, speeding around with what he called his "Italian friend", a buttery yellow Lamborghini. But in 1971 he went to his Devon committee colleagues with one more oakwood and they voted evenly for and against — the argument against being that the Trust could not take on more woods while so many other habitats As the casting voter in the chair on that occasion, I had

no option. To try to lighten the moment I said, "Well, Ken. you'll have to start a trust just The Woodland Trust will be Ken's eternal memorial. He

was awarded the MBE in 1971

and the OBE in 1989. Lan Mercer

Swift was reconciled to life years ferrying meals-on-long official status as a wheels but she was equally at

Kenneth Watkins, woodland conservationist, born December 6

wheels, but she was equally at home in the rough-house of party politics. Margaret Thatcher's abolition of West

Yorkshire and the other met-

ropolitan counties in the mid-

1980s stymied her work at that level, but she became

leader of the Liberal group on

was awarded the OBE in 1985.

A widow, she leaves her QC son Malcolm and three grand-

ploits in various parts of the world she assiduously

Heather Swift, local councilior

born May 21, 1917; died Novem-ber 3, 1996

hind this hyper-active plastic thing—a tsumami of sound— the rattle of snare over snare—undiluted, flat-out break-

beats...Ir's a Glade advert.

came across featuring the not-so-new rhythms of jungle (or

This was the first advert I

Martin Wainwright

Kirklees district council and

Ronald Ogden

Caught in the red net James Ross Moore writes: The West End outing of Virginia Cherrill (Obituary, November 21) was another lapse from

announced that members of the Communist Party and anyone associated with it "in such a way as to raise legitimate doubts about his or her reliability were to be banned from work "vital to the security of the state". Many people in senior positions in the civil service, arts, media and academic posts Ogden, who has died aged 81,

became one of them. Ronald Ogden was born in Bury, Lancashire to a staunch Conservative family. After Manchester Grammar School, he was apprenticed to the Post Office engineering department in 1932. A decade later as a Royal Corps of Signals officer, he served in North Africa and Italy, and by 1945 was a major with men-tions in despatches and an MBE. In the immediate postwar period he was respon-sible for re-establishing Vienna's telephone system. Back at the Post Office, and after a global conflict which had made him a socialist, he joined the Labour Party, chairing its Stafford and

Stone constituency. 1950s he resigned from the Labour Party over its Korean war policy. By then, as a Workers Education Association student at the Wedgwood Memorial College in north Staffordshire Ron had met script writer Peter Brinson, a WEA tutor and the London Film Centre's research direc-tor. Brinson wanted to bring had long been interested in the film society movement. Thus Ron, with his friend Bob Slater founded the New Era Film Society and tour west and south Yorkshire mining areas showing films like Paul Robeson's Proud

Ron organised a Leeds conference celebrating the work of documentary director Humphrey Jennings. Meanwhile Ron had be-

come an executive member of the Society of Telecommunications Engineers, and his efficiency and zeal as a Post Office assistant telephone engineer led to constant praise. This was his undoing. In 1954 his GPO boss boss reluctance - that he take

over responsibility for a mili-

1 3.00

Passionate socialist . . . GPO engineer, Ogden

tary base's telecommunic tions. Weeks later the GPO suspended Ron from his job. Ron's home was besieged by reporters, as were his unwitting parents in north Wales, and his wife collapsed. Ron initially refused to speak to the press but, inundated with calls while his wife was having emergency surgery, he issued a statement: "I resent the obvious imputations on my reliability and integrity," he said. "... During my Post Office service, dating back to 1932, I have been subject to the Official Secrets Act and I have not failed in my obliga-tions in this direction." The STE backed him dur-

N MAY 15, 1948 the stein's Bottleship Potenkin. ing the ensuing hearing be-Labour Prime Minis- in 1953, with Brinson's help, fore the government tribunal, dubbed the "three wise men". The essence of the case seemed to be Ron's membership of the film society, which included Communists plus Tories, Liberals and socialists — and a sister-inlaw once associated with the CP. He eventually resumed his duties, minus those millitary responsibilities which he had previously tried to decline.

seniority, he was debarred from political party membership. He rejoined Labour after his retirement in 1976, by which time he had become chief factories engineer.

After his blitz and battle field experiences Ron be-lieved in the National Health Service. He felt that it was the effect on staff morale of hospital reorganisation which had led to a post-surgery pressure sore and con-fined him to a wheelchair. But he was very proud of his local community hospital through which his wife could care for him at home until

Ron Ogden was a passion-ate socialist and internation-alist, he abhorred racism, believed in the struggle against fascism — but was appalled

by war. In his late seventies he acquired a computer, and learned how to use it, thanks to training from a young physiotherapist. This winter he had planned to write up those experiences of wartime - and cold war. He was very proud that his son-in-law is now chair of Labour Reform.

He is survived by his wife of
54 years, Elizabeth, three
daughters and three
grandchildren.

David Splisbury Ronald Ogden, engineer born

September 18, 1915; died No-vember 5, 1996

James Ross Moore writes: The the glory of City Lights. In mid-1935 she was advertised as Bert Coote's co-star in a Christmas spoof pantomine Sleeping Beauty: or, What a Witch! but when it opened at the Vaudeville Theatre December 14, 1935, there was no Cherrill. The unorthodox panto, praised for both co-producer Andre Charlot's sly touch and its fidelity to M Perrault, brought praise to Coote, Gertrude Musgrove, Nancy Burne and the knockabout music-hall veteran Nel-lie Wallace. It returned for a Cherrill.

Birthdays

Joan Armstrading, singer, 46; Billy Bremner, footballer, 54; Beau Bridges, actor, 55; Donald Byrd, jazz musician, composer, 65; Sir John Burgh, president, Trinity College, Oxford, 71; Dame Judi Dench, actress, 62; Kirk Douglas, actor, 78; Douglas Fairbanks Jr. actor. 86; Dawn Freedman, circuit judge, 54; Benny Green, saxo-phonist, writer, 69; Allan Jones, cricket umpire, 49; Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 70; Ian McIntyre, writer and broadcaster, 65; John Malkovich, actor, 43; Donny Osmond, singer, 39; Lord Rees QC, former MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 70; Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, opera singer, 81; Joanna Trollope, writer,

Death Notices

LOGAN, Deamond. Peacefully on December 4th 1956 at the Permirdige Palladive Care Lnil, St. Chartes Hospital. Funeral service at West London Crematorium Tramdey 12th December at 3.15pm (West Chupel). No Rowers please. Donations to the Macmillan Pembridge Appeal, c/o J.H. Kernyon, 83 Westbourne Grave W2 4U, @70 pface your announcement to 0171 713 4567, Fax 0171 713 4129.

Jackdaw



i Remember

FORTY HILL was once the northernmost place from which people might commute to London. It was on the bor-ders of Enfield Chase, a landscape covered with ancient oaks, many of them hollow, cleared, in the far past, of human habitation by terrible kings, and designed for hunting stags. The land and its hamlets were owned and ruled by Colonel Sir Henry Ferryman Bowles, a sporadi cally benevolent tyrant who would not have been out of place in Tsarist Russia . . . isolation in relatively empty country, crossed with byroads going nowhere in par-

ticular, had never quite released the village from the previous cantury. An early photograph of it could have been of Russia in about 1913, with small houses of all shapes scattered about a ragged little prairie, remaining deep in mud or dust according to the season. Livings in Forty Hill, too, had always been scraped and this, added to its cut-off location, made the place a sort of museum of outworn social attitudes that could only be remedied by

more freedom of movement and more cash in pockets. Sir Henry owned every-thing down to the last rut in the road and the last tiny cabin perched over the cesspit at the bottom of narrow village gardens. The exce tions to odd hutments and bedraggled terrace houses were a few better dwellings inspired by a grand tour Sir Henry had undertaken which had included the Italian Riviera. He had liked the architectural style of San Remo and had several houses built to remind him of it. The result disappointed him, as the de-velopment was in an area looking mushroom is dancing across the living room . . . be-

where a number of deep gravel pits had been dig. All the new houses had been given glamorous Italian names. "What does Buonavista mean?" Sir Henry asked to be reminded. But the promised view was of the eroded slopes of a chasm with a stag-nant pond at its bottom and the new buildings were sold

drum and bass). New or not-so-new, the shock was palpable. Not only was the track too new to make it on to most off cheaply to anyone indiffer ent to their surroundings. The village possessed a few small shops giving tick to imiumgle was being used to adpoverished customers, a book maker, an alcoholic doctor and two pubs in which sorrows were drowned in sourish ale at fourpence a pint. It had an immense fake Gothic church and a canon of St Pauls' with a

Norman Lewis writing in Granta with what the mag calls "valedictory realism". Deconstruct

A small, lime-green plasticky-

Father Christmas.

ener. Not a new hit fruit for clubbers, not a brand of jeans, not a DIY gold teeth creation set. A household freshener. Jungle had arrived. Later that night I wandered voice like Pavarotti's for a vicar, who, with his glowing pini cheeks and magnificent beard. looked like an embittered

down to the Forum in Kentish Town to watch Goldie's Metalheadz show. Reeling from my earlier discovery. I was shocked to find that the performance was very much like the Glade advert (in fact, with the slightly wafty dancers it was more reminiscent of the Naturel deodorant ad where people become trees an' all). Though what really shook me was that the beats had seemed harder with Gladle than

Will Ashon crossing cultures in the relaunched, elegant Trace magazine.

Valley and Sergei Eisen-

Get a buzz

THE hives [new home-worker-based informal organisations] where the classes are mixed up and talking may produce profound changes. Geoff Mulgan of the about the oddity that Labour's 20 per cent lead de fies political gravity". He thinks it is because politicians on both sides are proclaiming large sounding policies about economics and choice, whereas "all of today's biggest public anxieties are, at root, about the failure of the social order and its mability to guarantee jobs, safe streets honest institutions and reliable health services".In hives, people who have been lucky in these things are hear ing the experiences of the unlucky, and human witness is more powerful than television — influential though that is. With all this meeting and talking, it is possible that the British could turn against the

concept of ever-increasing power and money for the few ...and shrinking money and provisions for the rest. There are signs. The Government and opposition are finding themselves running to catch up with the wishes of ordinary people. They do not know what to expect next as the voters mix and chat. At least they know they do not know. The post-war election



Deeply cool . . . Trace

the nation's saviour Chur-chill, surprised both parties. Neither had realised that the war forced people from all classes and regions to discuss the future treather. the future together . . .

The mood could swing against fat-cattery, in one of those gusts of warmheartedness and justice that shakes Britain occasionally. People whose pride is being the richest and fillet will find the richest and fillet will fill the richest and fillet will find the richest and fillet will fill the rich est and elitist will find themselves simply out of fashion, looked down on — nul, French schoolboys say. This will not be vindication for the downshifted . . . surely it is more to do with the outsiders as a huge imaginative group. You just never know what will happen if you banish half the population to its own room. A taster of a batty but fascinating essay by Ann Barr in Harpers & Queen about the creation of a new kind of living after downsizing, recession etc.

Road love

WHEN you're learning to drive, you are told you . . . must never admit responsibility, never apologise, But if you are a man you learn that you must do more than that. If you are involved in an acci-dent, and if, especially if, you are to blame, you must go on the offensive. Shout at the person you have run into, especially if they seem vulnera-ble and are unlikely to assert themselves. I once saw a des-patch rider run into a woman on a zebra crossing and then shout at her as she lay on the

The woman who almost killed me got out of the car. asked me if I was all right. helped me check my bike. She then apologised and said it was completely her fault (which it was). She gave me her phone number, and said that if there were any repairs needed for my bike, she would pay for them. She talked like a human being rather than a Kray brother ... Sean French veers off the road in the New Statesman.

You can E-mail us, we're jackdawieguardian.co.uk.: Jax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw. The Guardian, 119 Farring-don Road, London ECIR 3ER.

Edited by Vanessa Herlowe



ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/Euro loses its appeal Not a single reason to join



Edited by Larry Elliott

KE a little 1960s Cold War ideology, add some 1960s giganticism and a sprinkling of 1970s Ger man economic miracle. Garnish with 1980s monetarism and there you have it, the euro. A recipe for disaster in anybody's language.

That, of course, will not be the message from this week's Dublin summit. There, all the talk will be of maintaining the momentum towards ever-The problem for the single-

currency supporters is that, the closer Europe gets to 1999, the easier it is to sympathise with the view of the American economist Rudi Dornbusch, who said recently that there were few identifiable benefits from a single cur-rency. Rather, KMU was like finding out your mother-inlaw has a twin sister".

Thankfully, Professor Dornbusch's message has started to sink in. It is now a cold certainty that a Conser-

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No. 7

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Robin Cook, the Opposition has managed to disentangle itself from an ill-advised dash to be part of the group of nations that will be the first over the top in 1999.

This is not just an electoral ploy. Mr Blair wants more than one term in office and that means a period of eco-nomic stability. A roller-coaster ride on the single currency is not part of the plan. Britain is not alone in hav

is horrified at the blatant fiddling that is going on to en-sure France and Italy meet the Masstricht convergence criteria. And Valery Giscard d'Estaing said what many in France have thought for a long, long time: that over-valuation of the franc as part of the build-up to EMU has crippled the economy. Monetary union is a politi-

cal construction that makes no economic sense except in a small knot of countries which are umbilically linked to Look at the assertions made

in the opening paragraph.
Europe, as a project, stemmed
from the need after the war to
offer a bulwark against Stalin's Soviet Union. Economic partnership and strength were seen as a way of halting the spread of communism. This worked. Post-war reconstruction, aided by American generosity (and, lest it be forgotten, competi-

Party as well. Prodded by present a united front has would be if it were suggested Robin Cook, the Opposition gone with it. The imperative that English should supplant now is to integrate the countries of the former Warsaw Pact into the European trading system through rootand-branch reform of the the

Common Agricultural Policy.
This leads to the second point the outmoded obsession with the supposed economies of scale likely to derive from a single currency. New technology, the mobility of fi-nance, the reliance on human rather than physical capital and the move away from mass production have meant that size no longer matters. City states can be more successful than putative empires.

OME argue that Europe must emu-States, But America works because it has a single language, a fiscal system that moves resources from rich to poor parts of the country and an integrationist culture. Economists might argue about whether it is an op-timal currency area, but it is much more so than the EU. If a bank teller in Michigan

loses her job she can find another in Arizona without much trouble: But what happens when the bank teller in Esher loses her job? Will she find work in Essen? In economies increasingly driven by the service sector, language matters. Indeed, a single language is more important to vative government would not join a single currency in the first wave, but there is growing realism in the Labour collapsed and the need to Yet what a hullabeloo there is growing realism. The control of the smooth working the smooth working of the smooth working the smooth working the s

that English should supplant every other language in Europe; all in the good cause of economic efficiency, naturally.
In the absence of any real linguistic and cultural inte-gration, the conclusion has to e that Europe could do with more currencies, rather than

The third building block for the euro is that everybody envies the Germans and wants to import some of their economic miracle. Well, this was true 20 years ago, when the Bundesbank steered Germany through the first two oil shocks pretty much un-scathed. In the first half of the 1980s there was envy of German macro-management, German industrial policy, German long-termism and so on. With unemployment in

Germany at four million and

rising, if may be time for reassessment. In Frankfurt now there is less talk of exporting Rhenish capitalism, more emphasis on importing deregulation and downsizing. pawned in an era when inflation was seen as the great problem. The single currency was hailed as the guaranter of price stability. But times have changed. Europe is gripped by deflation and by unemployment rates not seen since the rise of Fascism. Surprise, surprise, the new message is that the euro will guarantee Europe-wide refla-

people for whom it is impera-tive that the euro goes ahead. There is a real risk that policy for large parts of the EU— especially Britain — will be deflationary when it needs it to be reflationary, and expan sionary when it needs to con tract. That was precisely what happened between 1987 and 1992 in Britain, first with the shadowing of the mark then with the nightmare that

was the ERM. Despite the signs that the single currency will be as out of place in the Europe of the 21st century as a penny-far-thing in the Tour de France. there will be those who say that we should go ahead any way. They point out that Brit ain was harmed economically by not being a founder signatory of the Treaty of Rome. But even if Britain was wrong in 1967, it does not mean it is wrong to be cautious now France and Germany are not expanding at double the rate of Britain, as they were in the 1950s. In fact, they are struggling to expand at all

There are those in Britain particularly on the left, who feel that opposing a single currency marks them out as the worst sort of xenophobic Thatcherite. After all, the Tories are against single cur

This is strange, but then George Orwell wrote: "Eng





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Unity's hand can't be forced

DEBATE/Europe's future is single currency — economic stability and international strength — will be achieved whether or not the euro becomes reality for more than product. That compares design, says SARAH RYLE

-UTUROLOGY, of the sort practised by George Orwell in 1984 rather than by Mystic Meg of the National Lottery. has featured in debates about Europe since the last century. Michael Emerson, of the Centre for Economic Performance, says in a new paper — Redrawing the Map of Europe that most attempts to use sociological and technological

trends to predict the future have been hit and miss. Although, for example, the Earl of Birkenhead said in 1930 that the world in 2030 would see European nations uniting in the face of Chinese economic dominance (a vast chain of factories underselling every other national competitor), he also confidently predicted the endurance of the British Raj in India.

Mr Emerson looks back at previous attempts to unite Europe, from Charlemagne in 800, through Charles V and his 1555 plan to form a defence

and Napoleon, to Hitler's expansionism. The history lesson Ill-serves supporters of further economic integration in Europe — particularly as even now, stability on the mainland relies on assistance from the United States and Canada.

tempts failed, as Eurosceptics emphasise. emphasise.

One possible explaination is that in each case, a powerful person or group believed that they could forcibly speed

up integration. Napoleon de-acribed his vision of a peace-ful Europe with economic unity facilitated by the ab-sence of tariffs and governed in harmony by friendly monarchs whom he would treat as equals — if only they would first do what he told them. Using history another way, it is arguable that great

events have not been dictated by the actions of powerful in-dividuals or groups. They emerged and evolved because of widespread and complex shifts in attitudes among

community against the Turks | guments that the aims of the | According to EU figures, | not worth the pain.

the core nations of the European Union.

Although the rapid co-ordination of national economies is intended to guarantee these goals, there are well-documented, painful sacrifices, such as the likely increase of joblessness. Mr Emerson notes that the enlargement of Europe could also have drastic economic affects on pe-

ripheral nations. On the other hand, the economic conditions a single cur-rency would theoretically create are already evolving.

try has diluted high domestic labour costs by investing in production in neighbouring Tiger economies, says Mr Emerson, Germany could be expected to do the same in the former Soviet Union's satellites in eastern Europe. Finland and Sweden are already doing so in the Baltic states.
There is also already trans-

regional and transnational investment in transport and communications infrastrucwhole populations.

This approach supports arregional and cohesion funds.

favourably to the American programme of economy-stim-ulating Marshall Aid which, from 1948-51, accumulated to 4 per cent of one year of American GDP.

So in the EU, the poorest national economies of Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland have caught up, income per head rose from 66 per cent to 74 per cent of the EU average from 1983-55.

Just as income differentials are being eroded, Mr Emer-son points out that the yield differentials on 10-year gov-These include movement of capital across borders. In the same way that Japanese indussince the markets became convinced that the euro will go ahead. But it could also be attributed to the global com mitment to low inflation and

balanced budgets. It is unsurprising then, that some commentators (Mr Emerson cites Sir James Ball) look into the future of the EU and see no need to engineer further integration. They an ticipate greater benefits from focusing on basic issues of economic efficiency — the gain of rapid co-ordination is

Bourgeoisie fails total recall test

Dan Atkinson ****************

N THE opening scene of the film Married to the Mob (1988), godfather Tony — Dean Stockwell — finds underling Frank — Alec Baldwin — secretly acalling on the godfather's bird. Unwise? So it proves. "I am," declares Tony, "so disappointed in you." He

blows him away. Our cue for a little class treason, the flavour of the season, but treason with a difference — this time, let's shop the middle class, rather than the proletariat. Your correspondent has Item: "Britons are fore-been middle class since the cast to splash out in style

Worm's eye days when everyone else was posing as either right-on plebs or extras from Bridge Bridge and the shoot of the state of the s deshead Revisited. But there's only one word for the behaviour of the bourgeoisie in 1996. That's

right: disappointing.
The year came in with

learned tracts on the "chronic insecurity" of "middle England", on the "feel-ghastly factor" all the rest. Scarred, fear-ful, downsized: the middle class, having ridden high in the eighties, had crashed to earth. Humbled, it would never be the same again. So deeply has the middle

class learned its lesson that house prices are galloping at maybe 7 per cent this year. But that's not all. Item: "Britons are fore-

ever, with major stores now an expensive restanreporting a mini-boom." London Evening Standard. Item: "Durable house-hold goods and food and

drink wholesalers saw sales rise markedly [in November]" — CBL.

The fact is the "depression-hit" middle class looks

nothing of the sort. Where, for instance, is "old faith-ful", the endlessly patchedup family motor?

The CRC park at Insecu-rity Towers is chocks with brand-new Saab 900s, Ford Galaxys and 1.6 Mondeos. Where are the patched-up

Item: "Christmas shop-ping is starting earlier than old warehouse in London is rant and our too sorely oppressed bourgeoisie is hog-

Sobering to think that maybe a couple more years of the ERM plus a one-off supertax to clear the deficit could have brought the middle class back to the straight and narrow path of work, study, qualifications, duty, service, good beer and home cooking

No chance now. Stop Press!: "total number of [credit] cards in circulation back to the peak of 1990 — and spending on record players, the Spanish plonk, the evenings of toasted cheese and library News Service, Friday). credit cards has reached an all-time high" (Universal

Chris Hawkins on a double delight for British runners in Hong Kong

Chinese crackers for Dettori and Hills for Queensland prop

O NOW perhaps the Chinese know what is meant by an English lakeaway. The British influence in Hong Kong may be on the decline but, as if to emphasise who's still boss, our raiders carried off two of the three valuable international events at Sha Tin yesterday.

yesterday.
Luso, ridden by Frankie
Dettori, won the Vase with a
first prize of £290,000 for Clive Brittain, while First Island and trainer Geoff Wragg made off with £314,000 after winning the Cup. First Island's victory in the

nine furlongs group two event was a stunning success and his superiority much greater than might be suggested by his threequarters of a length margin over the Australian

challenger Seascay.

Michael Hills rode the perfect race on First Island who exhibited blistering accelera-tion in coming from last to first in the short straight. It capped a wonderful sea-son for Hills following his

Derby victory on Shaamit and King George success on

"That's my final ride of an unbelievable year." said Hills. "I was happy to take things quiet on First Island early on as we know he has a big finish and it was just a question of making sure I didn't hit the front too soon." First Island, winner of the Sussex Stakes in July, pulverised the opposition when Hills pulled him to the out-side and showed what real

class is all about. Wragg commented: "He stays in training next year and who knows he might come back here and try to do consistent and has been on the go since January when he started helping Pentire in his Dubai World Cup build-up."

Needle Gun and Dettori finished eighth but connections had no cause.

had no cause to be downhearted after Luso's emphatic length and a half win over Royal Snack in the Vase.

pace on the rails for most of the mile and a half trip but thanks to Frankie I've done it. approaching the final turn Dettori eased him out beautifully and struck for home as soon as they straightened-up. It was a decisive move and Luso left his rivals for dead, including the Michael Stoute-

Kong crowd to one of his famous flying dismounts, having one win in Germany. previously given them a glimpse of his effortless the badly drawn Tagula in the

1.10 Chery's Lad

trained Sacrament who faded



Winning salute . . . Frankie Dettori is led in after winning the International Vase on Luso

Sound performance by Dunwoody

Sound MAN and Viking Flagship, those two stalwart two milers, treated the Sandown crowd to a thriller in the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Chase on Saturday. Both survived jumping mistakes — Sound Man a shocker at the Pond — but ter Island. "I thought Needle Gun was

Dunwoody, his jockey, must take the lion's share

formed miracles to keep the

partnership intact after his

mount ploughed through the third last.

going to win this last year but he finished second," said Brit-Luso was tucked in near the | tain. "I'm 63 and thought time were matching strides coming to the final fence and it was only in the last 150 yards that Viking Flagship weakened to give his rival a "He's on top of the world and everything's falling for him. Thankfully, some of his second successive victory luck rubbed off on me." in the race.

Luso ran as a pacemaker for Lammtarra in the Arc last season but is very smart in his own right. He won the Italian Derby last year and this year including a group Dettori finished fourth on

For Brittain, who has had an unremarkable season at home, it was further proof of

how his crusading approach

O'Grady would like Dun- or two shocks, the biggest | King, running for the first woody to take the ride being the final fence fall of time in 590 days, who now again if Sound Man goes for the King George VI Chase, but Gordon Richards and One Man are likely to lodge a superior claim. Whether Sound Man will

stay three miles is open to doubt but O'Grady is confi-dent he can teach his charge to relax in the intervening weeks if it is decided to go to Kempton. Viking Flagship, making his reappearance, took his career earnings over the £500,000 mark in finishing second and delighted David Nicholson, his trainer.

Sound Man showed no lack of guts but Richard "Adrian (Maguire) said he blew up after the second last," commented Nicholson. "He'll now go to Wethgoing back to Cheltenham for the Champion Chase."

There was plant. There was plenty of for the race but the same action on Saturday and one can be said of Belmont

winner Imperial Call at Punchestown.

Conor O'Dwyer remounted Imperial Call to finish fourth behind Royal Mountbrowne and the gelding appeared none the worse for his scare. He would have won comfortably and bookmakers

took the view that he en-hanced his Gold Cup claims, Ladbrokes cutting him to 3-1 favourite from In contrast, Mr Mulligan was pushed out to 20-1 from 16's for the Gold Cup by Hill's after flopping in the Rehearsal Chase at

Musselburgh

the Cheltenham Gold Cup looks to have an outstanding chance in the Coral Welsh National. Not surprisingly the sponsors have slashed his odds dramtical-ly and he is now 9–2 favour-

> Belmont King was one of four Chepstow winners for Tony McCoy who certainly made the right decision in missing the ride on the favourite Teinem in the William Hill Hurdle at

The writing was on the wall a long way out for Teinein who finished unplaced behind Make A Stand on whom Glenn Tor-mey rode a brave and enterprising race.

been at least 20 lengths clear going down the back and kept going well to beat Master Beveled by two

Sport in brief

Eagles make swoop

PHIL LARDER, the new coach of Sheffield Eagles, has made his first major overseas signing with the recruitment of the prop forward Steve Edmed from the North Queensland Cowboys. writes Paul Fitzpatrick. At 28, 6ft 2tn and 17st, Edmed has the experience and the physical power to benefit the Eagles' pack. Edmed Joins Sheffield next month. He is due to marry later this month and will begin his preparations for the forthcoming Super League season after his honeymoon.

Problems mount for Wales

WALES have mounting injury problems as they prepare for next Sunday's international against the world champions South Africa in Cardiff. Wales, who announce their team to take on the South Africans today, have major worries over Gareth Thomas, Robert Howley and Colin Charvis.

Howley and Colin Charvis.

Thomas, the three-quarter who has scored four tries in Wales's last three internationals, was taken to hospital with a suspected broken palate after his Bridgend side were beaten 63-9 at Punty-pridd. The Barbarian Howley left the field at Twickenham with a hamstring injury and Charvis sustained a neck injury in Swansea's game against Neath.

Bristol's captain Martin Corry has pulled out of the England A side to face Argentina at Northampton tomorrow. The flanker damaged his right ankle tust before the final whistle in Saturday's

damaged his right ankle just before the final whistle in Saturday's 15-13 defeat by the new Courage League One leaders Wasps at

Vasquez still the champion

WILFREDO VASQUEZ of Puerto Rico successfully defended his World Boxing Association featherweight title against Chile's Bernardo Mendoza in Palm Springs, California, stopping his opponent in the fifth round. Vasquez, winner of three world titles, and making his first defence of the WBA title, dominated the fight and was ahead on all three judges' accrecards through the first four rounds. Mexico's Ricardo Lopez overwhelmed his South Korean challenger Myung-Sup Park, stopping him in the first round to retain his World Boxing Council straw-weight title.

McNulty holds off Price

Mark McNulty preserved his four-shot overnight lead to win the Zimbabwean Open from the former world No. 1 Nick Price and the South African Justin Hobday in Harare yesterday. The 43-year-old Zimbabwean won for the second time with a closing 69 at the Chapman Golf Club for a 72-hole 18-under-par total of 270. Price, who struggled all week with his putting, carded a closing 69 to share second place with Hobday on 274. "My biggest problem this week has been reading the greens," said the victor's compatitiot Price.

Briatore puts foot down

THE Benetton team manager Flavio Bristore has threatened to boycott Formula One races in Italy if there are convictions for the death of the Brazilian driver Ayrton Senna at Imola. Briatore's comments follow last month's decision by a magistrate to clear the way for a prosecutor to bring the Williams team manager Frank Williams and five others to possible trial on manslaughte

"Hanyone were to be convicted in Italy of Senna's death, it would be big trouble," Briatore said. "I, for example, would not risk bringing my team to a country that can convict you for an accident. Fatality is part of the game." Senna suffered fatal head injuries when his Williams car went off the Tamburello corner and smashed into a concrete wall in the initial laps of the San Marino Grand Prix on May 1, 1994.

Russian comes out of the cold

IN the most surprising result of the World Cup season Svetlana Gladishiva of Russia raced from near the back of the pack to win a women's Super-G in Vall, Colorado, for the first victory of her 10-year career. Starting the final round in 32nd place, the 25-year-old from Livov recorded a time of 1min 17.76sec to snatch victory from Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg, who had already accepted con-gratulations for what would have been her second Super-G

second place.

The race jury was forced to call off both the opening men's World Cup downhill and Super-G of the season at Whistler Mountain, British Columbia, because of wet snow and foggy

Ludlow card with guide to the form

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Davis died after sustaining internal injuries to his liver and spleen when his mount Mr Sox fell at Southwell in July.



Better news from the front power but

David Hopps in Bulewaye

NGLAND here here! Howzat! Judging by the banner fluttering from a balloon strung up at the main entrance of the Bulawayo Athletic Club, in-formation seemed to have reached Zimbabwe's second town that the cream of our batsmen were not exactly in

As uplifting news from an England cricket team abroad does not come along very often, we had better make the most of a minor triumph. Telex the foreign ministry and tell them that Matabele land has been put to flight. Up in the Matopos Hills, Cecil Rhodes's grave must be awash with tears.

champion

H down

but of the co

Jingoistic nonsense, but after that embarrassing reverse against Mashonaland, what is left of the Empire must long for encouraging news from the front.

"Fifty-nine-run triumph in Bulawayo: not many dead." Rejoice, as Lady Thatcher once said of another minor campaign. And rejoice in particular because Michael Ath-erton's back has responded favourably to injections.

Keen students of the prob-lem are beginning to identify a trend. When the pain is in-tolerable he is adamant that everything is fine. When the pain recedes he admits with relief that he is much im-

Scoreboard

America a Remie & Streak

Insula c Streak A R Whittalt

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Multally 7-2-14-2; Gough Silverwood 10-0-31-2; Cross : Irani 6-0-44-1. J Fenwick and E Gilin

Yesterday he could even delight in a run-out, showing no signs of discomfort as he chased from mid-on and whipped in a low return which left Streak stranded as he was sent back attempting a second run.

"As usual the injections have done the trick," Atherton said. "I feel much better. I enjoyed myself in the field, I was able to bend down and I could move freely when I batted. We put in a good bowling performance and the rusti-ness seems to be wearing off." England's 210 for nine in

this 50-overs contest was about 40 runs short of expec-tation on a reliable batting surface. But Atherion had played his part, rattling up 28 from 29 balls and gaining an early ascendancy against Zimbabwe's potential Test new-ball attack, Streak and Olonga, before he worked the

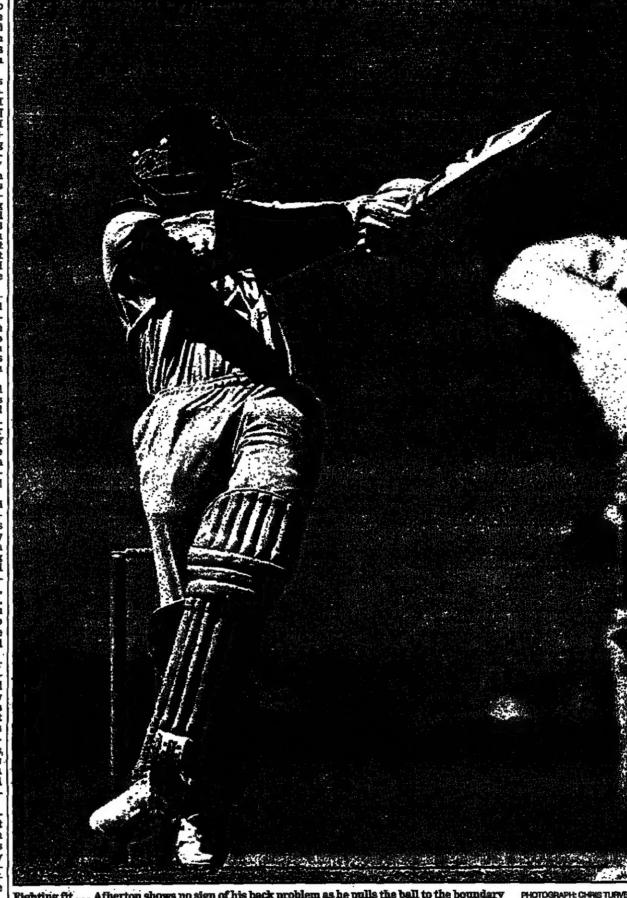
former to short midwicket.
But it was England's bowling that looked most sound yesterday, primarily in consistent new-ball spells from Mullally and Gough, who kept the ball just short of a length and made England's total far more imposing than it deserved to be. Matabeleland managed

only 35 from the first 15 overs as Mullally bowled Craig and had Decker caught at slip. That virtually finished their chances and the departure of James, held at deep square leg by Knight off the off-spin of Croft, and leaving Maiabe leland 111 for five in the 33rd over, proved to be terminal. Square-leg catches had been quite a feature in Eng-

land's innings. Fielders stationed on an enticingly short leg-side boundary, in front of a rather engaging gazebo which seemed well within range, were never un-occupied for too long. Knight, after a frisky half-century. and Thorpe swept the off-spin of Andy Whittall into the deep and Russell followed when he hauled Guy Whittall's full toss akywards.
From the comfort of 96 for

one in the 21st over, the Whittall cousins gave England some problems. Andrew Whittall once took 11 wickets in a match against Essex but his threat has not always been so obvious - two wickets at 130 runs each in his, three Tests; 10 first-class wickets at a cost of 93 each during his fourth and final year for Cambridge University (187) ty last summer.

Guy Whittall's bowling re-cord in his 16 Tests is almost as modest, but his medium pace collected four wickets as England crept apologetically past 200. Irani's Test prospects were not helped by a dif-fident innings and fallible



Fighting fit . . . Atherton shows no sign of his back problem as he pulls the ball to the boundary PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS TURNEY

Symonds takes the Australia A road Warne routs West Indies as Adams whirls into India

Andy Wilson in Sydney

HE Andrew Symonds saga is set to take an-other twist following his selection for Australia A, who face West Indies in Melbourne on Friday.

The Birmingham-born Gloucestershire batsman had already been ruled out of the Queensland side which plays England A in the final game of their tour starting in Brisbane tomorrow when he was picked for the Prime Minister's XI player.

against West Indies in | Canberra. That would not affect his

eligibility to play for Eng-land because it is an invita-tional fixture. But, if Symonds plays for Australia A, it would be confirmation of the 21-year-old's desire to represent the country where he has spent most of his life and surely put an end to suggestions that he end to suggestions that account play for England —
aithough Gloucestershire
may still be able to register
him as an English-qualified

Symonds's selection for by the lack of suitable nets.

the A team comes after a The pitch for Saturday's good start to the Australian season, including a rapid Sheffield Shield century for Queensland against a pow-erful New South Wales

eam last month. England's team will depend on a fitness test for Japend on a fitness test for Jasom Gallian, who has not played since cracking his right index finger three weeks ago. He was hoping to return in the second oneday game against New South Wales in Wollongong on Saturday but was denied But Mark Ralham respend on a fitness test for Jasom Gallian, who has not played with a belligerent unbeaten 70 from 67 balls until a storm forced the game to be abandoned, leaving England with three wins and a washout from the four 50-over fixtures on this tour.

match was also sub-stan dard, although Shane Lee was not complaining, the Somerset all-rounder followed Thursday's century with four wickets to reduce England A to 58 for five. But Mark Ealham res-

HINGS turned out nicely yesterday for the wristspinners' union, Rast of Suez branch, with the left-arm chiamen of South Africa's Paul Adams destroying the Indian middle order in the deciding third Test in Kanpur and Shane Warne's best-ever one

Snane warne's cest-ever one-day figures sending West Indies crashing to another de-moralising defeat in Sydney. The Australia leg-spinner took five wickets for four runs in 15 balls at the SCG, where Brian Lara again where Brian Lara again under-performed as the tourists mustered only 161. Mark

waugh batted throughout the home reply, pacing himself to 83 as Australia won by eight wickets to go 2-0 up against West Indies in a World Series also involving Pakistan.

With the series in India tied at 1-1 a tense opening day on

at 1-1, a tense opening day on a Kanpur pitch already taking spin saw "Frog-in-a-blender" Adams whirl his eft-arm way to three wickets in 15 balls as the home side stumbled to reach 204 for six with Sachin Tendulkar on 43. New Zealand ended their tour of Pakistan with a seven-

wicket win in Karachi.

Ivanisevic had beaten him six times before yesterday but on this occasion he never had a prayer. The 29-year-old Ger-man was in imperious form, particularly on his serve which the Croatian, who had won here last year, falled to

There were times in the first set and a half when Henman genuinely troubled Becker with both the velocity and range of his shots. Having said that, the possibility | Becker . . . imperious form

Tennis

little drama

Stephen Bierley sees Boris Becker end a hard season with an easy £1m

ORIS BECKER began the year with victory in the Australian Open and ended it in triumph in Munich yesterday with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Goran Ivanisevic in the season's final tournament, the Grand Slam Cup. This event continues to at-

tract its critics: the American trio of Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Todd Martin pulled out at the last minute while two more, Andre Agassi and the Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek might as well have not turned up, given their spineless

up, given their spineless performances.

Next year the Grand Slam Cup will be played in late September which, it is hoped, will encourage the leading players to take it more seriously. But Sampras, the world No. 1, has already said he will not be attending unless he wins a Grand Slam title.

Any winner of the four Grand Slams receives a bonus of \$250,000 merely for turning

of \$250,000 merely for turning up here, but even that did not prove enough incentive for Sampras this time.

Axel Mayer-Woelden, the tournament chairman, made a spirited defence yesterday but it was far from convinc ing. This may be the richest tennis event of all but it is many a long mile from being the best. Mayer-Woelden, who just

happens to be Becker's man-ager, certainly got the final he wanted although it could equally be argued that it was a final the events of the week deserved — that is, lacking tension and excitement.

This was not Becker's fault.

Ivanisevic nearly pulled out | der if you will ever be able of the tournament himself play tennis well again."

In these are fears all athletes ould not find the referee to tell him he was sick. A good night's sleep pulled him around and yesterday, as beaten finalist, he became richer by \$812,500, while

Becker won \$1.875 million (£1.17 million) altogether. He was undoubtedly a little weary after his five-set semifinal victory over the Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Satur-day, but Becker was totally dominant. A single break in each set was enough for the German; Tim Henman had given him an altogether tougher time in the other semi-final.

There are no ranking coints for the Grand Slam Cup. If there were Henman would have leaped several places, although his end-ofyear position of 29 is testimony to the progress the Brit-ish No. I has made in the last 12 months, Last year he finished 99th.

of an upset was negligible. Henman banked £270,000 for reaching the last four doubling his prize money for the year. However, the most valuable aspect for the week was undoubtedly the experience of playing Becker.

Henman had earlier beaten Michael Stich and MaliVai

Washington, both ranked in the top 20. "It emphasised to myself that I can definitely play with some of the best players. What I need to do now is compete against the very best and that's some-thing you just can't change overnight." The gulf between Henman and those very top players remains large but it is possible he may bridge it. Possible, but by no means cer-tain, as Becker was quick to point out after their match.

Both Henman and his coach David Felgate know there is a great deal more hard work to be done next year and they are setting about it in an in-

Henman for a time troubled Becker with his velocity and range of shot. But an upset was never on

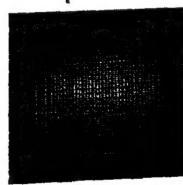
telligent methodical fashion. Henman's serve has benow, as Becker remarked, he must follow it into the net more often. As a lesson in serve and volleying, along with almost other aspects of the many parties. the game, Becker's perforsure. Henman will not be in the least carried away by his success this year. To climb the next rung he knows he needs to work doubly hard and hope above hope he stays free of injury.

Becker was out of action for nearly three months this year won here last year, failed to after damaging his wrist at come even close to breaking at any time.

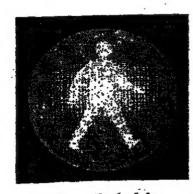
after damaging his wrist at Wimbledon. "I could not hold a racket and you start to won-

Becker knew that provided he could regain his fitness then he would be back at the top level and next year he will once again be challenging Sampras for the No. 1 spot.

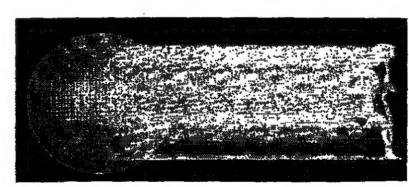




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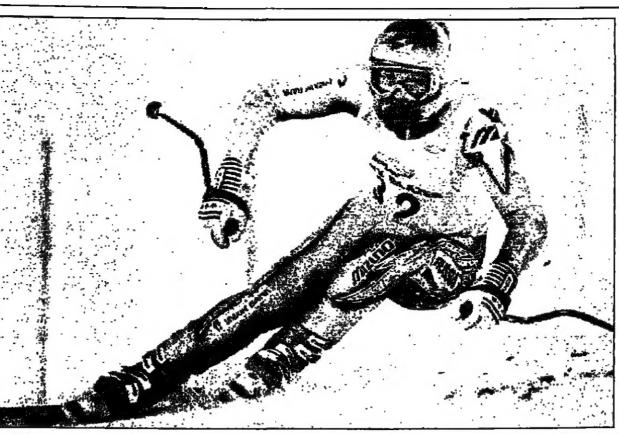
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Weekend results

Soccer FA CUP

Davies 22
Larmor 76
Chessterfield Mercer Heretz, Jules, Curte, Williams, Carr. Davies, Holland, Lormor, Howard, Perkins, Subs (not used). Beaumoni, Gauphan, Morre Scambantassis frontide (Martin 55), Knowles, Dawie (Weite 67), Bearnet, Hetchs, Lassa, McElbatton, Thomorione (Brooke 58), Milchell, Pitchie Weiter 67), Bearnet, Hetchs, Lassa, McElbatton, Thomorione (Brooke 58), Milchell, Pitchie Weiter 67), Beaten (19), Milchell, Pitchie Weiter 61), Milchell, Pitchie Weiter 61, 11 Seeten (19), Milchell, Pitchie Milchell, Pitchie Milchell, Pitchie Milchell, Pitchie 61, 11 Seeten (19), Milchell 61, Milche

Att. 2,647
Enffeld Pape, Harmigan, Underwood,
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Peterborough Unified Gritomos, Willis, Clark,
Edwards, Healt, Bodery, Ebdon (storrison 32),
Payne, Carruthers (Grazoli 71), Charlery,
Houghton (Boothrovid ST)
Referes G Pooley (Disnaps Stortton)).

Anhiered Th Munden, Morrey, O'Brien, Allian, Warrillow, Whytey, Wheelev, While (Chambers 69), Carruthers, Dent, Rose, Subs (not used): Donn, Parks, Ref P E Alcock (Rednill, 5y).

Wreachese = (1)2 Sc"thorps (1)2 Morris 21 Baker 18, 66 (pen) Wisthe 80 Wirechams Marriolt, McGregor, Hardy, Hughes, Humes, Carey, Stdmer, Russell, Casmolly, Morris, Ward (Waltin 78). Subs (not used) Joney, Brammer. Morris, Warre (Warrer 70). Joseph von Jones, Brammer. Scumtkerpe Umibed Sarmways. Waleb, Wilson. Scritort, Hope, Bradiny, Calvo-Gorcia, D'Auris. Baker, Syre (McGarlane 90). Clarkson. Substitution of the Communication of

Brotense P Taylor (Canshurd).

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Adams 45 User Do Committee Committe Sube (not send): Yellos, Wilsorm. Taylor Problemes M J Bodenham (East Look. Commail) Chaines — (1)2 Beenform — (2)3 Zole 12 Beenform — (2)3 Branch 17 Visit B5

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Rowland (Flatisciole IIC), Hoghes, Dowle, Sobe not used: Lampard, Jones, Basiley, Blass Und Schmeichel, Invitz, Mey, Pallister, Carntons, Bescham, Gloge, McCleir, Pobonsie, (Neville 85), Johnsen, Schiljaer, Subs (not used): Cruyri, Scholes, Pildingon, Appleton. Reviewer P-Jones (Longribarough). NATIONWIDE LEAGUE First Division

Sheff Utd — (1)1 Portsmeth ——(a)0 Kaztkovo 4 Att 16,333 Sheffield Uselbet Kelly, Parker, Sandord, Hutchton (Beard 4), Holdsworth, Nilsen, Speckman, Patterson, Taylor, Katchouro (Maller 83), Smpson Sub moi usedu Tracey Portheseath Flatavan, Whithread, Thomson, Pethick (McLoughin 77), Dobbon, Igod. Holl (Carter 62), Smpson, Bradbury, Durmir, Turnor (Swamson 55), Sarbersa M J Brantwood (Lichthald) P Clyde -VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Ridimestr 13-4
Hughes 25, 73
Hughes 25, 73
Alt. 2,346
Doberty 33
Borensib 11|2
Surioy 38
Burns 68 (pen)
Alt. 1,012
Reports 30
Red 1,012

Referee R Harris (Orders)

Wast Broom - (1)2

Paschisolide 48

Taylor 80 (pen) Frandess 12

Taylor 80 (pen) Frandess 13

Wast Brees Crichton Holms: Agnew Sneekes (Coldicott 61) Surgers Darby.
Grows, Smith, Peschisolide, Huril (Taylor 72).
Hearthen, Sub (not used) Guiper.

Better Branagan. Bergsson, Phillips.
Frandsen, Taggart, Facticosgh, Lee (Johansen 70), Sollars, Biske, McGinlay, Thompson, Subs (not used). Sheridan, Todd.

Referee K Lynch (Knerosborough) TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP First round

Ret R Orr (Kiba BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Division

Veekend winners . . . the Americans Jenni Meno and Todd Sand skate to Japan's NHK Trophy pairs title; Svetlana Gladishiva in a maiden World Cup victory at the Vail Super G; Michael Long becomes only the fifth Kiwi to win the NZ Oper ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division

B Stortherd 2 Carshaftn Chertsey T 0 Yound Chertsey T 1 Aylenbury Corps 1 Orderd States States 1 States Stat

SHIELD Southern Section First round 39.

IRISH LEAGHER Premier Objectors Ards
0. Crusadero R. Cilitawille 1, Portadows 1;
Gleagoro Z. Linfeld 1; Gleatora 1, Cole-rane 0. Pirat Disfeless Ballyclare 0, Ban-gor 1; Ballymena 2, Nearly D. Larist 1, Carrick R; Omagh To 2. Distillery 3. LEAGUE OF WALES

orbot LR 1, Worksop Tn 2, Braddord PA 2, Washington Tn 0; Caryandano 0, Curzon Ashino 0; Faraley Celitic 3, Congleton Tn 0; Uncoin Utd 8, Fishton 2; Methock Tn 3, Metherfield 3; Radditite Gor 2, Eastwood Tn 0; Stocksbridge PS 0, Leigh 0; Whitiey Bay 0. Great Marwood Tn 0. Presipesses Workington V Ashton Utd.

ICES LEAGUES Priest Betelese Abingdon Tn 2, Canvey Island 2; Aldershot Tn 3, Meloenhead Utd 0; Barton River 1, Melosay 1; Billericay Tn 3, Berfulamsted Tn 0; Bogar Regis Tn 3, Toching & Milchám Utd 0; Chesham Utd 2; Croydon 2; Hampton 2. Thame Utd 1; Leyton Permant 2, Worthing 0; Libridge 2, Basingstoke Tn 2; Whyteleale 3, Marlow 1, Seacend Devisions Chesham Utd 2; Croydon 2; Hampton 2, Thame Utd 1; Leyton Permant 2, Worthing 0; Libridge 2, Basingstoke Tn 2; Whyteleale 3, Marlow 1, Seacend Devisions Chesham C. Croydon 2; Hampton 1; Mer Police 2; Eghem Tn 1, Wivenhoe Tn 3; Hennel Hempsteed 1, Dorbing 5 (abnd. Boodlight tallure); Horotham 4, Challond St. Peter 0; Hungerford Tn 1, Collier Row 8, Peter 0; Hungerford Tn 1; Collier Row 8, Peter 0; Hungerford Tn 1; Collier Row 8, Peter 0; Hungerford Tn 2; Hungebury Tn 3; Southall 0, Lewes 1, VS Rugby 1, Tanibury 2; Bertham 1, VS Rugby 1, Thing Tn 2; Hornstruch 0, Wingsto 8, Finchley 1, Kingsbury Tn 3; Southall 0, Lewes 1, Southall 0, Lewes 1, Southall 0, Lewes 1, Southall 0, Lewes 1, Southall 0, Shepshed Dyn S; Stafford Rogrs 3, Peget Rogrs 1; Southallor Tn 2; Recham Division Claimester Tn 0, Weymouth 0; Cleywdon Tn 3; Fisher All Lein 0, Newyont-Low 1; Hungesbury Tn 3; Southall 0, Lewes 1, House 1, Hungesbury Hunger 1, Hungesbury Tn 1, Weston Coldfield Tn 1, Hinckley Tn 1; Weston Coldfield Tn 1, Hinckley Tn 1; Weston Coldfield Tn 1, Hinckley Tn 1; Tanibury 1; House 10; Hunger Division Claimester Th 2, Burker Division Clai Gascogine (hangers), 12 windows (Aserdeen), 11 Van Nooydonk (Certic), 10 Laudrup (Rangers); Van Voasen (Rangers); Cadere (Celtic), 8 ritton (Centermine); Carrecon (Hearts); Robertson (Hearts), First Eleksious 18 Grant (St. Johnstone), 14 Lilley (Greenock Morlon), 11 O'Boyle (St. Johnstone), 9 Evans (Partick), 7 McPhee (Airdrie); Yardley (St. Mirron); Hamilton (Dundee) Second Bivisious, 14 Annand (Chyde), 11 Harvey (Livingston), 14 Kertgan (Ayrt; Elgibh (Ayr), 8 Maillan (Queen of South); Flamigan (Queen of South); Flamigan (Queen of South); Flamigan (Queen of South); Flamigan (Rosen of Rosen of Rosen

Thestej: Mouteschan (Montrose): 10 taylor (Montrose): 9 Dwys (Allos): 7 Thomson (Immerrees; C Trissfe); Irvine (Allos): SPANIEM LEAGUE: Real Bette 5. Logrones: 1; Deportivo Coruna 7; Velencia 0; Rayo Vallecano 0, Compostela 1; Espanyol 3, Zaragoza 0; Celta Vigo 2, Sporting Gijon 1; Extramedura 1, Valledolid 1; Racing Santander 1, Real Sociedad 2; Oviedo 1, Tenerite 3, Setunderg stameleges; Real Madrid 2, Barcelona 0, Leading stameleges; Real Madrid 2, Barcelona 1, Leading stameleges; Real Madrid 2, Barcelona 1, Leading stameleges; Real Madrid 1, Coruna 1, Leading 1,

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Rugby League

MATOMAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE:
Premaier Divisions Severley 14. Lock Lane
8; Leigh Miners 30, Dudey Hill 31;
Seddieworth 35, Howarth B; Wigan St Patrices 50, Egrement 10. Pirat Divisions
Blackbrook 16, Wigan S; Judee 26; East
Leata 16, Oulton 14, Eastmoor 40, Leigh
East 4; Millom 8, Thornhill 39, Moldgronn 14,
Sarrow Island 15; Walney Central 11,
Askari 8, Second Divisions Eccles 31,
Deersbury Moor 12; Ovenden 34, Norman-

Hampshire 10. Feerr Gloucestersire 51, Sussex 29; Kent 11, Corneralt 32. Nevets: Peol Gree Cumbria 73, E Midlands 3; Lancashire 24, Leicestershire 6. Twos Cheshire 24, Leicestershire 12; Northumberland 17, Notts/Linca/Derby 21. Three Durham 35, N Midlands 37; Vortashire 77, Staffs 15, ANGALO-WELSHS Second Division Cospetitions Group As Cross Keys 77, Richmond 27; Massing 7, Waterioo 21. Group at Abergron 24, Moneley S2, Coversity 44, 8 Wates Police 41, Group Ca Abergron 26, Bedford 12, Aberding 20, Notinghem 22; Votatefield 41,UWIC 8, Group Dr. Bonymaen 93, Rugby 6; Lot Scottish 33, Liandovery 27; Ystradgyslas 7, Notherham 00, Clurs BATYCHIBS Birmingham/Johnul 29, Camp 1911 18; Burton 7, Watsall 25; Kandal 64, Vickers C; Lichfold 14, Mocriesfield 7; Liverpool 51 Heisen 47, New Brighton 7; Lide Weish 49, Henley 32; Manchester 7; Wifershore V, Sylvas 27; Woiverhampton 3, Feetpeassik Aspatria v Blaydor. Nigh Woombox v Aylesbury; N Welsham v Sudbury; Sanosi v Bridlington, BITERNATIONAL BATCHS Sarbertens 12, Australia 38. Golf

GRAND SLAM CUP (Munich): Sami-Similar G. Ivaniante (Cro) bi Y Karleinkov (Rus) 6-7, 2-6, 6-6, 6-6, 6-1 B. Beckner (Ger) bi T Henrman (GB) 7-6, 6-6, 6-1. Plant B Beckner (Gm) bi G Ivanianvic (Cro) 5-8 6-4 6-4.

LTA RESEBOK TOUR (Hull): Pleaster Mone 6 Homolowson (Yorks) to P Hand (Burks) 5-3, 7-5. Womens in Egorowse (Rus) to J Ward (Durham/Cleveland) 5-0, 5-2 Alpine Skiing Chinal bit Gong Zhicheo (China) to Hand to Gong Zhicheo (China) to Gong Zhicheo (China) to Hand to Gong Zhicheo (China) to Hand to Gong Zhicheo (China) to Egolin Zeith (Zeith (Hull) 11-8, 11-3 Desembles: Final & Fall & Jen 11-3 Desembles: Final & Fall & J ALPITTE SKILING
WORLD CUE (Vall, Colorado).
Busser-Ga 1, S. Gladishiva (Rust) 1mm
17.76acc; 2. P. Wiberg (Sust) 1.17.97, 3. C.
Montillat (Fr) 1.18.11; 4. H. Gerg (Ger)
1.18.15; 5. I. Kostner (III 1.18.19; 6. W. Zelenskaja (Rusj) 11.92.1. Overall stendings:
1. R. Selzinger (Gar) 414ctc; 2. P. Wiberg
(Sers) 55S; 3. H. Gerg (Ger) 276; 4. A.
Wachter (Auf) 180; 5. I. Rostner (III 157,
Bartonse Cosp. standarger 1, Austria;
1.87ajb; 2. Germany 1, 135; 3. Switzerland
872; 4. Italy 837, 5. France 853. Cricket THROLTEST (first day): Management India 204-6 (W Ramon 57) v South Africa. WORKER SERRESS: Sychology: West Indias 161 (Wanna 6-53). Australia 162-2 (M Waugh Etino). Australia won by sight wickels.
ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT: Rarschit. Publishin 234-4 (lipz Akmad 73, Washin Aaran 66). New Zasiand 256-3 (N Astle 60), New Zasiand upon by 5 cycly wickels. Publishin won spries 2-1.

Basketball BUDWISER LEAGUE: Wortning 78, Lappards 98, 7UP TROPYTO Derby 77, Sherdeld 86; Leicester 100, Cheater 104, Tharmas Valley 58, Birmingham 98, MEAR Adams 101, Toronto 75; New York 89, LA Clippers 60; Washington 118, Miwasukae 126; New Jersey 68, Debrot 95; Chicago 80, Mamil 83; Deltas 96, Vancouver 85; Houston 123, Philadelphia 108; Denver 81, Utah 104; Seettle 82, Charlotte 94. Equestrianism WOLTO WORLD CUP GUALETIERS (Seville, Sp. 1, Cora 1 IP Darragh, Irs) cir 38.8soca, 2. Juriquilla (A Van de Pol. Neth cir 38.9soca, 2. Juriquilla (A Van de Pol. Neth cir 38.91; 3. Escorpo d. Medal, 3p) cir 40.72. Intellale 15. Togg Santa's Echo (T Sockdaler): Electric III (Goosen) 8 sts. World European League: 1, P Raymaters (Neth) 72pts: 2. B Mandii (Seriz) 40; 3, 8 Rocuet (Fr) 36. Britishe 7, M Whitaker 31; 16. D Lampand 27. Boxing WEA FRATHERWINGHT TITLE (Palm Springs, Calif: Williamde Vasquer (Pusito Rico, hidr) bi Bernardo Mandigza (Chilo) **Motor Racing**

BPR GT TWO HOURS (Curlible, Br): 1, N Piquel/J Cacotto (Br/Ven) McLaren Ft GTR; 2, F Girotz/M Sala (Fr/Br) McLaren F1 GTR; 3 J Noisen/T Bachor (Den/Ger) McLaren F1 GTR. Badminton ESECUTION CONT.

BUTSH OPEN: Men's final: R Jedanson
(Om) to C Haughton (Lanca) 8-15. 15-5,
15-6. Women's Send-final: P Hamber
(Om) to T Woodward (Sussex) 21-9, 11-8.

Deubtes send-final: T Seng/M Pederson
(Om) to T Woodward (Sussex) 21-9, 11-8.

BANDEDRA INTERNATIONAL (Bombay: Final: P Microl (Soc) to R Bytes (Aut)
13-15, 15-10. 7-15, 17-15, 15-13.

WORLD GRAMD PRIX (Tembeu Denpasor, Ball): Mens Send-finale Purg Person
(Tal) bt I Wileys (Indo) 15-6, 15-6, Hockey CHARRYOUS TROPHY (Madrae, India):
Nousd robine Germany 2, India 1; Holland
2, Pakrston 0, Spoin 1, Australia 1, Paul-stan 4, Australia 2, India 3, Spoin 0
stan 1, Australia 2, India 3, Spoin 0
stan 1, Australia 2, India 3, Spoin 0
stantowal 2, Education Prossive Distalance
Barlors 7 2, Canterbury 2, Guildord 2,
Cannock 2, Hourslow 1, E Grinstead 1; Old
Loughtonians 2, Roading 3, Sustaion 2,
Havart 2, Teddinglon 2, Southgale 1

SCOTTEM INDOOR LEAGUES Conforman 4, Mills 7: Western B. Menzicashill 4; Kelburne 2, Torbreak W. S. Inverteinill 6, Gordonians 2, Torbreak 9, Inverteinill 6, Gordonians 2, Torbreak 9, Invarietin 2, Grange B. Kelburne 5, Standlager I, Mills 134, 2, Torbreak 11: 3, Menzicakill 10
RECONAL LEAGUESE Beast Chelmstord

| Courteck Cromagn Tro 2, Distillery 3, | Schiedds: Whickham v Morpsch Tr. | Schiedds: Whichham v Worpsch Tr. | Schiedds:

SENSON & NEDGRE CUP: Firmal Notlingham 5, Ayr 3,
PRIMERER LEAGUE, Paterizorough 3,
Kingston 6; Slough 2, Solihull 8; Swindon
15, Nechray 8, Tellord 2, Guidfeird 8,
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Dumries 7, Castlerangh 8; File 6, Whitely 4;
Paisley 16, Murrayfield 9,
GLASSIC COLA MEN'S MATIONAL
CMP, Semi-films, second lags Lordon
Towers 70, Leopards 72 (apg. 162-165)

SOCCOP
FA CAMENIA PRESIDENSMIP: Notin: Forout v his wester [8.0].
OR MARYERS CUP: Second vounds
Wortcotter C v RC Warvick (7.20).
PONTURS LEAGUE Pressive Divisions
Stoke v Livopool. Second Divisions
Monated V Grimphy, League Case Group
twos Barnetoy v Hudderstield.
AVORI BREVEARICE COMBINA TOTAL
First Divisions: Chehen v Wethert, Luten v
Oxford Unit: OPR v Arenus; Swinden v
Bristol Rviz (2.0).
AUTO WIRDSCHEIMAS SHIBLD: Nextinorm Assultant First Created Chesterileid v
Pression (7.43).

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Adams acts the part in roving role

still chanting "Vieira" outside the hostelries of High-bury long after his late resounding shot. Even before the Frenchman's final act the stadium's big screens frequently flashed out his name.

"They love him here, I think," said Arsenal's French manager, his studious gaze breaking into a smile. If ever there was a series of the stadious frequently flashed the stadious flashed the stadio there was a moment for repaying their affection it was on an afternoon when several more familiar Arsenal figures failed to func-tion in the face of a rigorous examination of their champi-conship credentials.

onship credentials.

Arsenal paraded a curious mixture of the new and old.

Vieira's first goal for the club was one vivid illustration, as was the speciacular headed goal from Tony Adams, revel-ling in Arsène Wenger's licence to roam. Yet Derby twice exposed a familiar lack of pace at the back before al-most withstanding a late Highbury siege.
A more cautious manager

than Wenger may well have shut up shop after Adams's diving header gave Arsenal a half-time. After all, Wright and Hartson were being man-acled by McGrath at the heart of a superbly disciplined Derby defence. Merson and

Vieira stuttered in midfield. Derby were encouraged to attack, especially seeking out Sturridge's pace, having noted Adams's forward for-ays. And Linighan and Bould were clearly there for turngoal, Derby enjoyed numeri-cal superiority close to Lu-kic's goal; twice an inaccu-rate final ball let them down.

Wenger recited the familiar

lament of fatigue after recent exertions against Tottenham, Liverpool and Newcastle. And, as he confirmed, his players will enjoy their two-week break even more for having extended their lead at

pool lapse at home. Wenger defended the new licence for Adams and com- Darryl Powell's volley.

terialised on the byline to help construct Vletra's goal. "You can improve at every age," Wenger insisted. "And I think he [Adams] already has. He likes it, everybody likes it. But the problem is always to find a good balance."

He is also seeking the right balance in Vieira, between his creative and destructive tendencies. The young

tendencies. The young French midfielder is suspended for the next two games and received a seventh booking for a kick at Assno-vic. He was fortunate later to escape another caution, and dismissal, after a crunching challenge on Darryl Powell. Wenger insisted Vieira was

"a fair player. He lacks experience; when he makes a foul, it's spectacular. Maybe it's a little bit my fault. I ask him to be aggressive and he some-times arrives too late." Arsenal have great faith in Vieira — his six-year contract

is twice as long as Wenger's
— and his impact since his
53.6 million move compounds puzziement over his availabil-ity in the first place. "When he became free, I was sur-prised," said Wenger. "After all, Milan boy a player of 20 and let him go six months later. I advised Arsenal to buy him very quickly."

Wenger insists he is not following the same route for the World Player of the Year. "There is no chance that Arsenal would buy George Weah this season," he said be-fore adding: "After that you never know." More immedi ate targets are understood to be another Milan player, Zvonimir Boban, and PSV Rindhoven's Wim Jonk, a for-mer club-mate of Bergkamp at Ajax and Internazionale.

With far less resources Jim Smith has bought judiciously in developing a thoughtful precise team given added durability by McGrath's time-less defending. Lack of goal power has undermined the team, though seemingly not here when Sturridge outpaced Adams before unleashing a fearsome abot via the bar and Chris Powell out-ma-noeuvred Linighan to initiate

Spurs' swoop snatches Scales

Gerry Francis was cele-brating last night after his first signing for Leeds. succeeding with his 11th-hour bid for the Liverpool defender John Scales, snatching him from beneath Leeds United's nose, writes Ian Ross.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have signed a player of John's ability and quality," said Francis. "It's not often they become available."

After a weekend of deliberation the 30-year-old former England centre-back decided to join Spurs in a £2.6 million deal under a 31/2-year contract with the White Hart Lane

It is a major domestic coup for Francis only three days after he completed another \$2.6 million purchase, for the Norwegian forward Steffen

Iversen from Rosenborg. Scales would have pledged his future to Leeds on Friday afternoon but for the unexpected intervention of Fran-cis, who rang his counterpart at Anfield Roy Evans to any case.

Although Scales discussed a move to Spurs with Francis on Saturday, it was thought earlier yesterday that the Harrogate born Scales had plumped for a return to Leeds, where he began his career before leaving on a free transfer in 1985. He joined Liverpool from Wim-

bledon in 1994 for £8.5 million. Indeed, Leeds — who enter-tain Spurs on Saturday — had planned to unveil Scales at a press conference today. Francis has also remained interested in another Liver-

pool player, Jamie Redknapp. The midfielder is currently unable to claim a regular first-team place and Francis has been considering making a formal offer of around 25 million.

But Liverpool value Redknapp at 28 million and would tell any prospective buyer that he is not for sale in

The sight of opponents stampeding at them with a be-wildering disregard for logic and reason, snatching the lead and then defending stoutly cannot be wholly unfamiliar to Liverpool and yet,

Liverpool 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1

plain humanity's in-

nate desire to be

frightened, and replied that

only when one is truly afraid

days. On Saturday, for the third

consecutive league game at Anfield, Evans made the

short journey from pitch-side

to sound-proofed sanctuary

amid a crescendo of jeers and

against a backdrop of angrily contorted faces. Again the fin-gers jabbed accusingly, and

again it was all perfectly understandable.

There is still a deeply

rooted suspicion that Liver

pool are nowhere near so

effective when obliged to

stand toe to toe with a team

that refuses to be enveloped

Descending order . . . Barnes, Wednesday's Whittingham and Ruddock queue up to contest a header at Anfield

No tear, no Liverpool

once again, they seemed to be ill at ease and to have no idea can the joys of normality be what to do about it. Liverpool do not have a nat-ural ball-winner outside their If that is so, and the Liverpool manager Roy Evans was quaking a little in his Guccis after seeing his team's first home defeat in a year, then he back line, which makes each

and every misplaced pass all the more painful. And there must be relishing the visits of Middlesbrough and Nottingwere lots of those here.

Tackles set McManaman rattling like a wire coat-hanger in a breeze

David Pleat has long been post and, with 15 minutes to lauded, rightly or not, for the go, it proved Liverpool's thoroughness of his prepara-tion and his ability to secondguess anyone. But it needs no tactical genius to work out that Steve McManaman is this Liverpool's heartbeat and that to nullify him is to bolster your own chances. This Sheffield Wednesday

go, it proved Liverpool's fourth, and final, clear chance. "We do need more options when McManaman is marked tightly because he just isn't going to get freedom in every game." said Evans after finally emerging from a dress ated to the sound of his rarely did, by fair means when using released fury. by the sense of foreboding tra- the policing skills of Peter Long before Wednesday Evans.

ever they called upon Dejan

Stefanovic, a defender bereft

McManaman rattling like a

"He is so important to

them," said the admirable

Atherton. 'He is so intelligent

and comfortable on the ball.

He has been outstanding this

season but I believe I won the battle today."

McManaman did not get a kick. A header, yes, but it was to strike the angle of bar and

way through the opening half the groans of discontant were cutting their way through a frozen afternoon. Even Evans wire coat-hanger in a stiff admitted that, for all Liverpool's possession and effort, there was an air of inevitabilhave been to a messy goal but, the contributions of Atherton

and Des Walker apart, it was a rather messy gama. Mark Pembridge's shot was

drifting well and truly wide until Guy Whittingham's out-stretched leg sent it spinning in off the fingers of David

As Liverpool's concentra-tion wandered and their in-stinct for self-preservation began to fade, Wednesday's infrequent raids began to held increased assets and hold increased promise and Booth almost doubled their advantage with a fine header which struck the crossbar.

"One morning paper described my team as unremarkable which I didn't like," said Pleat. "We have honest players who perform week in, week out." It is, perhaps, the realisation that he cannot now make a similar cannot now make a similar claim which will so hurt

SPORTS NEWS 15

Sunderland 1, Wimbledon 3

Kinnear starts to take things more seriously

George Caulkin

OE KINNEAR talked about playing in Europe and everyone listened. He mused about speculation linking him with the Blackburn job and no one giggled he does not want it — and he touched on winning the championship — "if we're in this position with six or seven

harder team to beat".

They are second now and there was not a single guffaw at the thoughts of the Wimbledon manager. Then Vinnie Jones strolled in and normal

service resumed.

A run of 18 games without defeat? "The only other time I've been involved in a run like this is when I've been to a curry house." His no-holds-barred midfield contest with barred midfield contest with Sunderland's own self-styled hard man Kevin Ball? "Kevin? Kevin who?" Do Jones and his team-mates ever consider the title? "Yeah, we like Mike Tyson; we think be'll win it again."

A disarming reluctance to take themselves seriously is a core reason for Wimbledon's unlikely success. It is about time the rest of the Premier thing the rest of the Filandship did, though Sunderland turned up expecting a bareknuckle fight and received a humiliating lesson in the finer points. "They were ranting and raving in the tun-nel but they came second best," sneered Jones. were more controlled."

If the visitors' first goal - a

flaps by the goalkeeper Lione Perez - was archetypal Wimbledon, the second and third a studious exchange of passes before Ekoku thundered home a 17-yard shot and an exquisite side-footed finish from Dean Holdsworth — would have graced Antield or Old Trafford.

And therein, of course, lies the dilemma for both sides. Wimbledon must be desperate whereas Sunderland are at best treading water in the soulless shell of Roker. Those who blame the Taylor Report for killing the atmosphere at games would do well to wit-

broken old ground.

Sunderland may have lost only four home league games under Peter Reid's tutelage but goals have been a rare commodity. Andy Melville's flick from Martin Smith's corner could hardly gloss over a numbing game-long tactic of aiming punts to an isolated Craig Russell.

They could learn from

ness the eerle silence — bro-ken only by occasional swell-ings of noise at glamour

games and obligatory booing at half- and full-time — that

has become the norm at this

Craig Russell.

They could learn from Wimbledon, as Reid insisted they would. "This is the Plough Lane of the Premiership," said a misty-eyed Jones. "This is the last one left, and this, this...this will keep them in the Premiership, this stadium. Because it's one horrible place to come it's one horrible place to come to — and I mean that in a nice way. They've got to capitalise

Chelsea 2, Everton 2

Zola provides the integration

Bridge, it was vital for the health of the Premiership that they were not allowed to run away with the argument.

And, John Major please note, 90 minutes of watching clienterence Zola was a straightforward striker, a clienterence Zola was appropriately and the control of the premiership that they were not allowed to run away with the argument.

And, John Major please note, 90 minutes of watching the control of the control Bridge, it was vital for the health of the Premiership Gianfranco Zola was enough to convince that noted Little

Englander Joe Royle of the case for further integration. "The problem arises when with four Cs and two Zs in his name but is no better than Everton's manager. "But Zola was different class."

Indeed he was. Once, maybe twice, a season you witness a player stamp a game exclusively in his own image. On Saturday, from the moment the Italian robbed Barrett to sow the panic that led to his astonishing free-kick goal, Zola was everywhere.

If there was a move to cre ate from the back he instigated it; if there was a tackle to be won in midfield he mitment: if there was a ball to thread through to Vialli he did so defily. He also took every corner, most free kicks, and forced Everton to depute Barrett as a man-marker.
"We didn't want to do it be-

cause you have to reorganise in order to accommodate them," said Royle. "But Leeds did it last week and, in the nd, we had to, too.'

By the time the change was made Zola had already conjured a second goal, again dis-

FTER a week in which the Euro-sceptics threatened to get a toe-told even on Stamford

Chelsea Gullit places no do whatever he likes. He has proved he can cope with the though he is small, he is strong. Like the other Italians, he brings something

extra to us."
Zola's one reservation about Chelsea is that his new team-mates do not always read his intentions quickly a problem which further acquaintance should resolve. Once it does, Chelsea will be

very good indeed. Everton, too, showed plenty of positives with the nascent partnership of Ferguson, that great tree trunk of a striker, and his latest off-shoot Michael Branch looking promising. The big man played a part in both goals, heading down to Speed to set up Branch's equaliser — his first senior goal — and then lofting a perfect ball over Clarke that Kanchelsis collected to put Everton ahead. Afterwards Royle described both sides as wannabes, the

sort who should be challenging for the Premiership. A lit-tle premature maybe but. then again, who would have thought 12 months ago that Little Italy would relocate to the Kings Road?

Scottish round-up

Celtic lack the strength and fibre of champions

HE essential difference be-tween Rangers and Celtic, the one making the Ibrox club champions and the latter perennial runners-up, became as obvious as a scar at the

Rangers have more protec-tive layers of skin. When Celtic lose a few first-team regulars — they have been without the midfielders McStay and O'Donnell all season and, at Motherwell, Stubbs, Di Canio and Van Hooydonk were also missing

quality. Rangers cope much more ably in similar circumstances. Their deputies stand

Celtic capitulated at Fir Park to a Motherwell side who lost their goalkeeper Howie with a depressed fracaccidental collision with Thom in the 63rd minute.

summon a winner in stoppage time from their substitute Ross. The entire exercise was a damning example of Celtic's lack of resilience.

In their last three matches Celtic have dropped eight points and now trail Rangers by that number, with little evidence to suggest the delicit can be overcome. Without strengthening, in midfield esecially, Celtic were always likely to be found out. That is now happening. Rangers, behind twice in

the home match with Hibernian — the only team to have beaten them in domestic competition — not only came back to win 4-3 but helped Ally McCoist set yet another record.

goals, after Wright and Jack-son had scored for Hibs and Ferguson first brought Rangers level, equalled and then surpassed Gordon Wallace's post-war Scottish re-

cord of 264 league goals. Laudrup scored Rangers' fourth before McGinlay's late counter. It was precisely the performance and result Celtic have yet to master.

Southampton 0, Aston Villa 1

Villa set for six of the best Marshall best back to front

Don Beet

T IS little wonder that Brian Little allowed himself one of his apologetic smiles at the end of a week in which his accomplished side slipped quietly into fourth place in

the Premiership.
Aston Villa's win on Saturday, their fourth in succession, was achieved in a manner which suggested that now they are up with the leaders they have the ability to stay there. Their next six games provide them with the ideal opportunity to prove that they are equipped to stay the

Not many teams would relish playing Wimbledon, Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester United, Newcastle and Liverpool in quick succession but this is perhaps the right time for Villa to face the challenge for vina to have the changed of rivals above or around them. They have begun to play to their potential after a stuttering sort of season and Little said after Andy Townsend had give them the points at The Dell: "We're up there, so let's see if we can handle it."

Ing. Noneureress, ne nerped make Villa's goal, setting which — who moments be fore had won a crucial mid-

been bandling things too well on the whole up to now. But a couple of weeks ago we talked about things and the response has been fantastic. Now we should win things. We've got quite a talented team." That might be an under

statement. After a furious first five minutes in which Watson might have scored twice, Southampton were made to look ordinary as VII-la's neat, chesaboard style ought to have brought them more goals. Townsend, who with Staumton was outstand-ing, disappointed twice and the enigmatic Milosevic forced Beasant into two su-

perb saves. What about Milosevic? If the Serb could learn to score goals again he would be a near-perfect centre-forward. He holds the line well, his passing is generally perceptive and his balance, for a big man, is extraordinary. He can also be desperately frustrat-ing. Nonetheless, he helped

"Expectations run high at field tackle — free on the left villa Park but we haven't to deliver a cross that presented the unmarked Townsend with the most simple of opportunities.
"He looked offside," com-

plained Southampton's man-ager Graeme Souness. That was another dodgy decision against us."

efforts, even though their fifth straight defeat plunged them back into the bottom three from which they had emerged so impressively only a few weeks ago.

"As a manager you can't ask for more than 100 per cent, and I'm getting that. But we have to be more professional, more ruthless, more streetwise," he said. "I think we've proved we are a good team. Now we have to keep believing. When you are down you can't feel sorry for

It is better to be safe than sorry but once again South-ampton are far from that. But, if Villa have the ability to stay near the top, Saints surely have the heart to avoid

Leicester City 1, Blackburn Rovers 1

Jeremy Alexander AN MARSHALL was bought for his versatility and billed as a makeshift

centre-back on Saturday. Though he scored 17 goals in 26 League appearances for Oldham in 1990-91 and Souness, however, had no 10 in 29 games for Ipswich complaints about his side's three seasons later, Joe Royle saw him as a makeshift striker. These days, at 2750,000, he is probably just a makeshift footballer full stop, the sort Martin O'Neill has to get by with at Leicester, without a Jack Walker behind him.

In the first half Marshall did a serviceable job at the five-man back when Leices ter played, according to O'Neill, as if they thought the fog would force abandonment. In the second Marshall was pushed for-ward alongside Claridge, allowing Heskey to play wider on the left, and scored the equaliser that prevented Blackburn's first away win of the season.
"Even defence is better
than the bench," he said.

Marshall looks as if he ought to be at the carpenter's bench or an anvil. His hair used to be long but he never went fast enough to make it stream gloriously. It is short now but he still moves like a shire-horse in shoes a size too small. His header, from an acute angle at the far post to Lennon's free-kick, was from three yards, his best distance.

"Happy birthday Colin Hendry from all the girls," flashed the big screen after-wards. He had played otherwise like Cerberus, with a head for every occasion and girl perhaps. But Marshall blew his candles out and left Flowers blushing too.

The fog at its worst had the goalkeepers checking the team sheet to see who their opposite number was. Occasionally they tried a shot. Rovers found one an-other the better, with their sherbet lemon shirts and huge numbers on the back in the brass type-face of fancy front doors. Leicester initially compacted in caution — the fog was not that thick — and got nowhere.

he headed in the rebound of Sherwood's crack against the bar and led the line skilfully - albeit a line of intelligent support from Gallacher, Wilcox and Sherwood, who has regained his sest. Rovers flowed almost at their best. They should have sewn the game up but, as their

consistently as Shearer but

caretaker manager Tony Parkes said: We are un-able to find that elusive cushion to help us win more matches." They have scored first in all six under his charge but, once City raised their sights, the feathers flew. In the end Rovers could feel relieved

at their point. Parkes insists he does not want the job full-time and believes his successor, to be named soon, will be "some-one outside Britain". But he expects to be in charge against Wimbledon on Saturday. Despite Marshall, Blackburn are unbeaten in five matches. Like him, they are making shift well. but still had the character to

Five pages of sport

Racing Frankie Dettori strikes it rich in Hong Kong spectacular

Cricket Atherton's men bounce back with a victory in Bulawayo 13

SportExtra



Still no delight for Dowie . . . the West Ham striker, seeking an end to his lengthening goal famine, goes up with May and Schmeichel without reward during yesterday's Premiership match at Upton Park

PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM JENKINS

Premiership: West Ham United 2, Manchester United 2

Slipsnod champions lose their grip

David Lacey

NCHESTER United, their place in the European Cup quarter-finals secure, turned to domestic matters yesterday only to find West Ham United reluctant to

<u>Morse</u>

rejoin the leading pack in the Premiership but no sooner was victory in their grasp than it was whisked away by two late goals in two minutes. Anything less than a draw

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would have enabled them to
rejoin the leading pack in the

would have been scant
only one winner," Redknapp
to bow to led honestly but in
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would have been scant
only one winner," Redknapp
to reflected later. Certainly West
Ham had made a good prima
facte case for victory. Manchester United had been unthe role of doormats, A win for Alex Fergutrealing would have been scant
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league goals all season and
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blow shot. As Dumitrescu swerved past two defenders before driving the
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and sudden the bulk of the match this was not reflected in their finishing and, when an inspired piece of football from Cantona set up Solskjaer for Manchester United's first goal, to be followed by a typically auda-cious second from Beckham, it looked as if the game would be won more in the spirit of the wages snatch than the

carefully planned bank raid.
This was West Ham's fourth draw in five league matches and they have not won in the Premiership since beating Blackburn at the end of October. However, this performence of ford them more formance offered them more encouragement than the bare facts of the result, not least because Harry Redknapp's much criticised Romanian pair Dumitresco and Radu-cioiu looked more like the players they had been in the 1994 World Cup.

Dumitrescu began the same, with his compatriot on the bench, but it was Red-knapp's decision to bring on Raducioiu, soon after West Ham had fallen behind, which eventually increased the pres-sure on Manchester United's defenders during the last quarter-hour. West Ham will now expect the pair to imagine they are playing the

champions every week.
Not that Manchester United Not that Manchester United looked much like champlons. Injuries in Vienna four days earlier had deprived them of Gary Neville in defence and Keane and Butt in central midfield. Hard though McClair worked, he is no Keane, and the Irishman's pace and strength were badly missed as West Ham hustled, harried and pursued their opponents between the penalty ponents between the penalty

able to keep proper track of Dumitrescu, whose cross was fumbled by Schmeichel before the Dane redeemed himself with the save that denied Hughes a goal from the

rebound. A few minutes later an attempted centre from Dumitrescu ricocheted off May and on to McClair's trailing forearm. When a similar thing happened to Bowen the refer-ee penalised the West Ham de-fender, but now he waved away their appeals for a penalty.

For all their possession and

territorial advantages West Ham still needed luck at the right time if they were to turn their first-half superiority into goals. Their shooting Eight minutes into the second half Cantona's superb their final passes lacked the crucial element of surprise; clear of a square defence to

theory than practice. Little was seen of Giggs or Cantona and even less of Poborsky, who on being presented with the sight of Dicks advancing on him with the ball appeared to decide that Christmas was a more enticing prospect at that point than a tackle.

Yet West Ham were warned in the 40th minute what the consequences of their failure to score might be. Cantona headed Giggs's cross on to Solskjaer, who controlled the ball with a flick and a nudge before bringing Miklosko into urgent action for the first time, the West Ham goal-keeper turning the shot around a post.

The portent was not false.

fenders before driving the ball a fraction wide of the far post West Ham looked far from done for but in the 75th minute Beckham gathered a pass from Phil Neville, who had replaced Poborsky, in the penalty arc and scored an-other memorable goal, chip-ping the ball into the top left-hand corner of the net.

With Billic forced off by flu not that this had spared the Croatian a first-half caution

now they were two down with time running out. Then it all changed. In the 77th minute Raducioiu spun past Johnsen on the left and with Schmeichel anticipating a shot inside his near post.

drove the ball past the goal-keeper into the far corner. through-pass found Hughes sprinting clear of the last de-

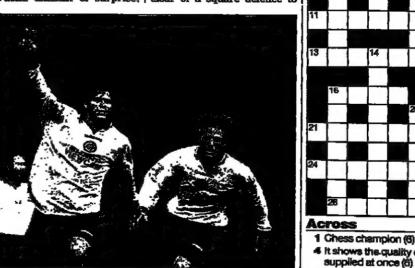
In the 79th Dumitrescu's

ing Ferguson and his team feeling a little flat. "We didn't deserve to win." manager gallantly, "and West Ham at least deserved a draw." But, if Old Trafford wants to make a serious Impact in the Premiership. United will not want to make a habit of losing two-goal leads.

fender. Schmeichel brought Other reports, pages 22, 23

Guardian Crossword No 20,831

Set by Rufus



areas.
"At half-time I could see Two up ... Beckham celebrates his goal with Phil Neville



It was never, its creator insists, designed to titiliate sad, middle-aged men. Instead, "it is meant to be a celebration of women in the 1990s". Of course, it got an awful lot wrong. The return of the Girlie Show

G2 page 4



4 It shows the quality of petrol

- 9 Hitch horse to pole (4) 10 Another bloody hold-upl
- 11 Address for delivery? (6)
- 12 Fear of redundancy drove them to breaking point (8)
- 13 Bring in present (9) 15 The mark of the restorer (4)
- 16 A mild Imprecation here! an example (4)
- 17 Took an attitude over something that's beneath you (9) 21 Countryman may help you
- when lost (8) 22 Plant entirely consumed by
- a greedy creature (6) 24 Mint a copper sovereign
- 27 Glrl with fish to seil down Down 1 Pink gin ordered for a V.I.P.
- 2 One loses one's head when in a corner (5) 3 At heart he'd a desire to get
 - married (7) 5 Country girl on the vessel (6) 6 Current left off, having been
 - discharged (9) 7 Always the first to set out for
 - the mountain (7) 8 Spare lockers? (9,4)
 - 14 Decree nisi may result when one leaves home (9)
 - 16 Sharpshooter employed in the rigging (7)

18 Free from sailor's love entanglement (7) 19 Saving firm beset by money

trouble (7) 20 He talked to the Carpenter about cabbages and Kings

23 Not the first to change roles

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